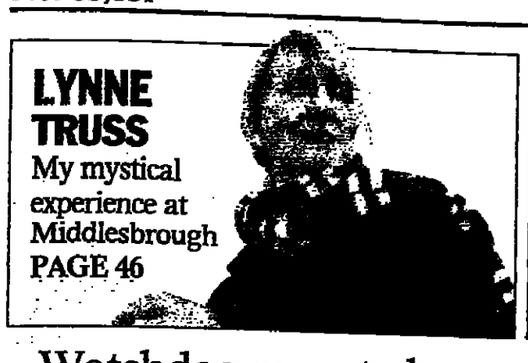
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THE TIMES

35p

No. 65,831 FRIDAY MARCH 7 1997



LYNNE TRUSS
My mystical experience at Middlesbrough
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Areas where you can't buy a house for love or money
PAGE 7



IN FULL BLOOM
Valerie Grove meets the evergreen actress
PAGE 18



TOMORROW
32-PAGE FASHION SUPPLEMENT
PLUS: A chance to win one of 40 designer outfits
MAGAZINE

Watchdog carpeted on private plans

City ordered to pay up on pensions

BY ROBERT MILLER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE City's most senior watchdog has been carpeted over "foot-dragging" in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal, and been told by a Treasury minister to make rapid and decisive progress towards compensating the victims.

At least 600,000 people are still awaiting compensation, years after being wrongly advised to exchange generous occupational pension schemes for expensive personal plans.

Failure to deal with the problem could jeopardise attempts to privatise the state pension scheme, since public confidence in insurance and pensions companies is unlikely to be restored until all the victims are identified and paid. And as the Government was announcing its Basic Pensions Plus proposals on Wednesday, Angela Knight summoned Sir Andrew Large, head of the Securities and Investments Board, to the Treasury to demand action.

Sir Andrew was given three weeks to "complete a specific round of discussions with the firms with most to do". Mrs Knight said last night: "I am looking for rapid and decisive results from the pensions industry. Targets will be set to ensure that people are put right. Sir Andrew has already said that there can be no more foot-dragging. He demands huge progress in 1997. I will settle for nothing less."

Sir Andrew, who is due to stand down from his £303,000-a-year post in May, is understood to have felt that criticism levelled at his organisation was unjustified. But he himself conceded in November that the initial compensation deadlines had been "missed by a mile". Of the 500,000 "most urgent" cases identified since the review began in 1994, only 25,000 have been completed and £50 million of redress offered.

Many are nurses, teachers, miners, firefighters and police officers who were advised to leave their occupational schemes and join personal plans with high set-up and administrative charges and uncertain final payouts. Some have resorted to the courts for redress, while the pension firms have been told that they face heavy fines or expulsion from the industry if the victims are not paid on time.

The Government's proposed reforms of the pension system are dependant on public trust in the private companies that would invest people's life savings and ministers are anxious that the problems that arose from the personal pensions revolution of the 1980s should be resolved.

Labour raised the question of trust in its response to Peter Lilley's announcement on Wednesday, and today Tony Blair again addresses the regulatory problems of private provision although, writing in *The Times*, he adds: "I do not believe that the mis-selling and high costs that so many have suffered in the past are or were inevitable. They came about because the Government got its partnership with the private sector wrong."

In his article, Mr Blair rejects the central features of the proposed reforms and promises to keep both the old-age pension and the state earnings-related pension scheme for those who want it. Serps, he writes, is the "benchmark against which individuals can judge whether personal provision is best for them".

He does, however, describe the Government's plans as "bold" and as opening up the way to sensible debate. "There is an ageing population and unless we plan for that challenge, it could create a serious crisis both for tomorrow's elderly and their children and grandchildren."

Mr Blair's article will be seen as an attempt to counter criticisms yesterday that Labour spokesmen had given a purely knee-jerk reaction in dismissing Mr Lilley's proposals. Conservatives have been delighted by the "negative" response.

Tony Blair, page 18

Labour at 54%

Labour has moved to a 26-point lead over the Tories, according to a Gallup survey in today's *Daily Telegraph*. The poll suggests that Labour has gained five points over the past month with the Tories slipping by six points. Labour is on 54 per cent, the Tories on 28 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 12.5 per cent.

KIERAN DOHERTY/REUTERS



Douglas Hogg leaves Downing Street yesterday after attending a Cabinet meeting

Hogg denies meat hygiene report was suppressed

BY POLLY NEWTON AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

DOUGLAS HOGG moved yesterday to discredit an unpublished and damning report on the British meat industry by suggesting that five of its six contributors were unhappy with the way it was written by its editor.

The report, produced in December 1995, described routine unhygienic practices in abattoirs and gave a warning that *E. coli* — the bacterium that recently killed 20 people in Scotland — was being brought into slaughterhouses via contaminated hides.

According to its editor, Bill Swann — a former Official Veterinary Surgeon — it was suppressed because it would have caused too much damage to a meat industry already hit hard by the BSE crisis.

In a Commons statement prompted by the leak of the report, Mr Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said it was "a working document" that had not been shown to ministers. He said Mr Swann had been asked to compile the report based on the findings of Hygiene Advice Teams that visited 450 abattoirs in England, Wales and Scotland. Inspections were carried out at the request of the Meat Hygiene Service, an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Yesterday, the ministry insisted that all the report's recommendations were being implemented, and said a 27-page document, which it released, had been made available in August to farmers and meat industry representatives.

Mr Hogg said: "Mr Swann's first draft was regarded as rather unsatisfactory, and not fully reflecting the views of others who had taken part in the review. Mr Swann was asked to recast his contribution, but was not willing to do so."

Mr Hogg denied that the report had been suppressed. He said a revised version had been circulated within the industry. He told MPs that the review of abattoirs that led to the report was referred to in the Meat Hygiene Service's annual report, published last summer. Any MP who was interested could have requested a copy of the Hygiene Advice Team's revised report, which did not contain a specific warning about *E. coli*.

Mr Swann, a member of the Hygiene Advice Team as well as the report editor, said: "I totally refute the statement made by Mr Hogg that the other members of the editorial group did not agree the draft of this report."

He referred to the document the ministry produced yesterday, saying it appeared to "bear little resemblance" to the draft of more than 50 pages with 81 recommendations which he had last seen in December 1995.

At a ministry press confer-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21



"It's a damning report — I think I'm going to have to suppress it"



Levin: 44-year career

Press award for Bernard Levin

Bernard Levin, the columnist for *The Times*, won the Chairman's Award at the British Press Awards for 1997 last night. In a career of 44 years, Mr Levin, 68, has written for a host of publications.

Bernard Levin writes in the Magazine tomorrow.

Gunman takes £700,000 Picasso

BY JOANNA BALE

A PAINTING by Picasso worth £700,000 was stolen from a London art gallery yesterday by a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun. He escaped in a taxi.

The oil painting, *Tête de Femme*, was a 1939 portrait of Picasso's mistress, Dora Maar, and was for sale at the Lefevre Gallery in the West End. Its insurers have offered a reward of up to £50,000 for information leading to its return.

The robber walked through an open door into the gallery just after 11 am with a bag containing the shotgun and asked an assistant how much the painting was worth. He told her that he had a shotgun and asked her to take it off the wall. When she refused, he grabbed it and ran outside to a taxi which he had paid to wait.

The driver was ordered at gunpoint to take him to Wimbledon, southwest London. Jacqui Cartwright, the gallery assistant, said: "He came straight to my desk asking only for that one picture. He looked like an art student with long hair in a ponytail. He asked the price of the painting and I answered him.

"Then he told me he had a shotgun and he wanted the picture. I said 'I beg your pardon'. He said 'Get it off the wall for me,' and I said I couldn't. I told him to get it himself, so he did and then he ran out."



Detail from *Tête de Femme*

Another assistant, Camilla Bois, 28, told how she had chased the man. She said: "I forgot he had a gun. You just think 'Hang on, you're stealing our painting'."

The gallery's managing director, Martin Summers, said the robbery took 35 seconds and was captured on security video cameras.

He added: "Staff were alerted when one of the assistants rang a panic button. They chased him outside where he dropped the shotgun and threatened two people before getting into the taxi.

"I understand that on the way, he stopped at a Halfords store in Battersea as he said he needed to make an urgent phone call. He frogmarched the taxi driver into the shop with the gun still in the bag.

"Staff at the shop said that he could not use their phone, so the man returned to the taxi and was dropped off at an address in Wimbledon, leaving behind the picture frame."

Mr Summers said the painting, oil on plywood, had been previously owned by the Picasso family.

Mark Dalrymple of Tyler Fine Art Loss Adjusters, representing the underwriters Hiscox syndicates at Lloyd's and Nordstern Art Insurance, said: "The painting will never find a buyer at a serious price. Eventually someone will be tempted by the £50,000 reward we are offering."

Speaking outside the gallery, Detective Inspector Bob Davidge said that Interpol had been alerted. Officers were examining the security camera videotape.

The man was described as being in his early 30s, 5 ft 10 in. of slim build, with brown, shoulder-length hair in a ponytail. He was wearing brown, tinted glasses and a camouflage jacket, and had a London accent.

Human clones 'in two years'

Human clones could be created in less than two years, Ian Wilmut, the scientist who created Dolly, the cloned sheep, told a committee of MPs. He said researchers would have to be determined to succeed and added that such work should be banned.....Page 5

Train derailed

Three people were slightly injured when a passenger train was derailed just outside Newton Abbot station in Devon. Eight carriages of the 1535 Great Western service from Paddington to Penzance came off the track.

Jagan dies

Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana, died of heart problems in hospital in Washington at 78. A Communist, in 1992 he won the country's first democratic elections in 28 years.....Pages 16, 23

His lordship has a day dispensing common justice

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BURGLAR found himself before the most senior judge in the land yesterday when he appeared at Liverpool Crown Court to be sentenced for his repeated break-ins.

Instead of the usual circuit judge, Paul Eaton was brought before Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. If the accused had heard that the senior judiciary were soft on crime, he was in for a shock.

Eaton, 37, of Edge Hill, who pleaded guilty to three burglaries and an attempted burglary last year while on bail, had been told by his lawyers to expect three to four years. Lord Bingham sent him down for six. "The time has come when the public deserve a respite from your continuing offences," Eaton was told. His lawyers are considering an appeal.

Lord Bingham's day at the coalface of the criminal courts continued with fining a seasoned shoplifter in his 60s who stole a jar of coffee [illegible] sentencing a man who admitted threatening behaviour to 150 hours' community service, imposing a 12-month driving ban on a man who admitted dangerous driving and stealing a car, as well as giving him 100 hours' community service; and sending a 19-year-old who admitted two burglaries to one year in a young offenders' institution.

A spokesman for Lord Bingham said the Lord Chief Justice was keen to see how the courts operated "on the ground at the sharp end of things, and he thought the best way to do that was to sit there himself". Today in Liverpool, Lord Bingham will constitute a rare sitting of the Court of Appeal's criminal division outside London — the first time for nearly 20 years.

If successful, the move could lead to regular regional sittings of the Court, with big savings in time and costs for all those who now have to travel to London. Lord Bingham said: "My own preference is for as much work being done in regional centres as possible."



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Bluster-bomb stuns beastly foe — for now

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

IT'S not that Labour's arguments are stronger than the Tories'. It is more that creeping feeling that nothing is to any avail. Over tea after PM's Questions yesterday I discussed with a former sketchwriter, Andrew Rawnsley, his reverie in which Mr Major is playing a children's computer game. An army of grotesque red cyber-beasties is advancing towards the Tory player, munching their way through walls, parachuting from the air and hang-gliding from cliffs.

For the Major player there are means of counter-attack — exploding tax-bombshells, whammies, double-whammies and killer-rebuttals — but these are in limited supply. Time, too, is running out. And still the Blairite cyber-beasties advance. *Munch-munch-munch* — here they come. They are through the battlments and waiting to storm the fortress.

Munch-munch ... the beastie onslaught went into overdrive at PM's Questions yesterday afternoon. The cyber-assailants ambushed John Major over *E.coli* and a review of hygiene in slaughterhouses. Beastie Leader, Tony Blair, let fly a string of missiles concerning documents, civil servants and recommendations. Whether there was anything in these missiles was unclear, but Mr Blair munched his way forward with such confidence that the effect was to beleaguer the Prime Minister.

John Major appears to have become a Buddhist. In recent days he has faced attack with a Zen-like detachment, reciting his responses in a kind of trance, relaxed as you please. It would not have been out of place if someone were to have lit a joss-stick, or tinkled a little bell, in the breaks during his increasingly prolix replies. By the end of PM's Questions, Major's nerve remained steady, but the cyber-beasties and their Leader were swarming closer.

Next on our screen came a new game: *Hunt the Hogg*. In this game the beasties try to torment and ridicule a Tory dwarf-warrior. Yesterday's game involved the Hogg trying to climb out of a hole dug for him by Meat Hygiene Service cyber-slaves, while everyone else tries to push him back. He held his own.

Munch-munch-munch. On the beasties marched. And then — a shock. An unexpected reverse for the besieging army! The Tories fielded their reserve cyber-weapon: the Heseltine bluster-bomb. A debate on public expenditure was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Seldom in recent months has this weapon been deployed to such good effect. In a series of small explosions and an impressive fireworks display, the beasties were subjected to a withering assault. In one dramatic engagement the Heseltine took out the cyber-invaders' deputy-super-monster, John Prescott, with a salvo of killer-quotes from the monster's recent excursion to the Wirral. The monster's eyes rolled. He was temporarily disabled.

It was a sweet moment for the Heseltine bluster-bomb. Blue eyes blazing and mane (slightly thinning) swept back, the blond bombshell gripped the dispatch box and chuckled as Labour's deputy-super-monster reeled. But behind the triumph, I could see fear in the Heseltine's eyes. Any day now, as, revelling in his old skills, he hits the controls, a message will flash on to the screen: "Game Over".

He fumbles for loose change for yet another game — one last game, please God. But his pockets are empty. *Munch-munch-munch* ... on they come.

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Setting the agenda
All this week Westminster has been convulsed by the McAlpine memoirs in *The Times*, the paper that sets the political agenda.

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Steps to improve meat hygiene 'inadequate'

Children sue ministers over E coli

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SEVEN children who were struck down by *E. coli* infection last year have been granted legal aid to sue the Government for failing to minimise public risk from the bacteria.

Their lawyers argue that ministers at the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food must have known of the increasing threat posed by *E. coli* but did not take adequate steps to improve meat hygiene or food labelling.

Between 10 and 15 more cases are being submitted to the Legal Aid Board for consideration over the next week by the solicitors acting for the group, Howe and Co, of London. Lucy Kennedy, of Howe, said yesterday that they would be seeking £10,000 for the pain and suffering caused to the children, with the possibility of a further claim in the future for any child who fell ill again as a result of being infected with *E. coli*.

The bacteria can cause long-term damage to the kidneys, and Ms Kennedy said a kidney transplant for any of the children would prompt a claim for between £80,000 and £100,000. "These children will not be able to get medical insurance now. These parents are being told there is a good chance their child will require aggressive medical treatment, or they might need to have private medical care overseas, and they cannot get insurance.

"They are absolutely frantic about it. They cannot do anything to protect themselves."

Among the children who have been granted legal aid to sue are Katie Thomas, 7, and her sister Rachel, 4, who became seriously ill after being infected with *E.coli* last September. Rachel spent nearly two weeks in Alderhey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, where she was on a kidney dialysis machine and underwent two blood transfusions. Katie spent ten days in the hospital.

Their parents, Gary Thomas, 43, a Customs and Excise officer, and his wife, Chris, believe Katie contracted the infection from a McDonald's hamburger and then passed it on to Rachel. One of the other cases granted legal aid, involving a girl from Newcastle upon Tyne, is also alleged to stem from a McDonald's burger. McDonald's will be named in the action.

The other legal aid cases involve two children from each of two families who held barbecues in the Stoke-on-Trent area last summer.

PAUL COUSANS



Katie Thomas, top, and her sister Rachel, who became seriously ill after being infected last year

Meat report

Continued from page 1

ence yesterday. Peter Soul, head of operations at the Meat Hygiene Service and a member of the report's editorial board, backed Mr Hogg, saying board members felt Mr Swann's draft "did not present a balanced view".

Two other team members last night refused to say whether they backed Mr Swann, and two others were unavailable.

John Major was drawn into the row at Prime Minister's question time when Tony Blair asked: "Why was this report not published on March 31, 1996, as Mr Swann was told that it would be, and why did ministers not see this report and act upon it?"

Mr Major insisted: "There is no question of the report being suppressed. It was a report produced by officials, it was drawn up by the Meat Hygiene Service. It was very widely circulated."

In another development, Professor Sir Hugh Pennington, chairman of the expert group looking into last year's Lanarkshire *E. coli* outbreak in which 18 people died, expressed anger that he had not been told about the report. He said failure to alert his group to its existence could delay the publication of its report, due out this month.

Mr Blair will today make a manifesto pledge to create an independent Food Standards Agency to protect consumers.

Vicar apologises for 'racist' editorial

BY TIM JONES

AN ANGLICAN vicar has been forced to pulp an entire issue of his parish magazine after he was reprimanded for using the publication to express his views on Europe.

The Rev Philip Foster will apologise from his pulpit on Sunday. Mr Foster, a member of the Referendum Party, had expressed fears in an editorial that Britain could be become part of a so-called Fourth Reich, swallowed up by the "financially and industrially strong German nation". The front cover featured a picture of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, with the question: "Is God Warning Us?"

He was ordered to pulp 800 issues of his magazine because of concerns that his views amounted to racism. His opinions, published in the newsletter he produces from St Matthew's Church, Cambridge, were criticised by his superiors in the Ely diocese who warned him he was abusing his position as editor.

Yesterday, Mr Foster, 48, said: "I used the magazine to come out under the flag of the Referendum Party and that was wrong. I shall be admitting my mistake from the pulpit on Sunday."

Mr Foster, who has adorned his vicarage with Referendum Party posters, said: "Because of my personal concerns about the referendum question I decided to make the magazine focus on the issue of Europe. As I am the editor I put forward my personal opinion. I recognise it was the wrong thing to have done and I have said it to the Church."

He added: "What I did was on my own initiative and not at the instigation of the Referendum Party.

"I can see how it could be interpreted as racist but that was not my intention and I meant no offence to the German people."

Council leaders quit over expenses claims

The two leading members of Labour-controlled Doncaster council resigned yesterday after the district auditor reported that members had wrongly claimed expenses for foreign trips and entertaining. Peter Walsh, leader for three years and a councillor for 15, said he stepped down because "speculation and conjecture following the publication of the report has caused distress both to me and my family". Ray Stockhill, his deputy for the past two years and a councillor since 1980, said his close association with the leader made him feel he should also stand down.

New trial for footballers

Three football stars voiced their disappointment yesterday after being told by the Crown Prosecution Service that they face a new trial on match-rigging charges after a jury at Winchester Crown Court failed to reach a verdict. No date has been fixed for the retrial of Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers and John Fashanu as well as Heng Suan Lim, a Malaysian businessman.

Council workers on strike

Twenty thousand council workers staged a one-day strike yesterday as Scottish councils met to fix budgets for next year. Average tax increases of 13 per cent were expected across the country's 32 councils. The stoppage by members of the Unison union, which claims that 10,000 jobs are at risk, affected Edinburgh, Glasgow and Midlothian.

Sex and drugs teacher jailed

A teacher who supplied drugs to three schoolgirls of 15 and had sex with two of them was jailed for two years yesterday. Stephen Carberry, 38, befriended the girls on a school trip to Holland. He appeared at Kircudbright Sheriff Court after having admitted charges of supplying cannabis resin and of having unlawful sex with two of the girls.

MoD 'needs new big planes'

The Ministry of Defence is too dependent on chartering ageing Russian and Ukrainian transport planes for ferrying British troops and equipment to emergency military operations, the Commons Defence Committee said yesterday. The committee urged the Government to rejoin Europe's Future Large Aircraft programme.

Dog handler wins race case

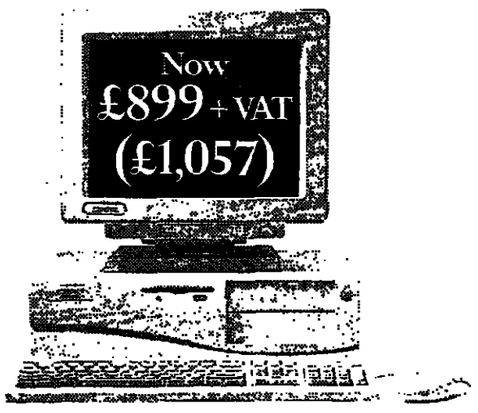
The first black dog handler in the Prison Service has been awarded £19,500 for racial discrimination over his treatment at Wormwood Scrubs prison. After a ten-day hearing a north London industrial tribunal ruled that Philip Ballantyne had been unjustifiably disciplined and taken off the dog section for a year.

Row over 'sectarian' minister

The political future of Baroness Denton, the Employment Equality Minister in Northern Ireland, was in doubt last night after revelations that she tolerated sectarianism within her department. She organised the transfer of a Catholic secretary, the victim of harassment by a more senior Protestant, contrary to law in the Province.

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Many white goods have not made light work for women

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

FAR from liberating women, labour-saving devices have left them spending just as many hours in the kitchen as their mothers or grandmothers did.

When the automatic washing machine, the dishwasher and the microwave oven arrived in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, many believed that women were on the verge of a domestic revolution, Catherine Cronin, a university researcher, said. "But despite this great boom in domestic technology, the hours that women spend on domestic work haven't changed appreciably," she says. "The kitchen is on the go all day: it's constant, repetitive work."

Ms Cronin will tell the Edinburgh Science Festival later this month in a talk entitled "So who's doing the washing up now?" that not only have "white goods" not reduced women's working hours, but they have also given men a new excuse for shirking their share of the chores.

She says that as more and more women took on full-time jobs, reluctant men had begun to take a small share of household responsibilities. The most common chore was washing the dishes. But now men know their home has a dishwasher they are likely to presume their help isn't needed and simply leave the dirty dishes lying on the table.

Ms Cronin, 27, who has a degree in mechanical engineering and an MA in women's studies, does research at Stirling and Heriot-Watt universities, and lectures Open University students. She says that changing standards in society have added to women's work.

"In days gone by clothes were only washed and kitchen work-surfaces scrubbed when they looked physically dirty. But today when we have washing machines that feature prewashes and programmes for conditioning clothes and adding sweet-smelling powders we feel under pressure to wash our clothes every time we wear them.

"Men are as bad, if not worse than women, for demanding that their clothes look crisp and fresh, so they throw everything into the laundry basket which their partner then normally washes, irons, then puts away. Microwaves, too, are a problem even though they were designed to save time, because now most men see them as taking all the work out of cooking, and so sit back while their wife heats up a meal that may still have taken a long time to prepare."

Designers of machines — who are overwhelmingly men — bear some of the responsibility, she says. They tend to go on adding features to machines, rather than designing them to make the work easier. "We need more female designers, or more male designers who do some of the work in the house themselves, and understand it," Ms Cronin said.

"Domestic appliances have taken the labour out of many household tasks but they have not reduced the time women spend on them. They have also added to the divisions of what is classed as 'men's work' and what is 'women's work'.

"Where once men may have appreciated that scrubbing dishes in a basin was hard work and offered to help, they don't think about the amount of time it takes to clear the table and load the dishwasher; collect the dirty clothes and divide them into colours, whites, and woollens, hang the clothes up, iron them and so on.

"Domestic work may not be quite as rigorous thanks to the new appliances, but it is just as time-consuming because there is more of it to do, thanks to the new demand for higher standards of hygiene that the machines have brought."



Women today are just as likely to be stuck in the kitchen as were housewives back in the Sixties

'Fuddy duddy' Mothers' Union seeks new name

By Emma Wilkins

THE Mothers' Union is considering changing its name after a survey of members described the organisation as "fuddy duddy", "holier than thou" and over concerned with "tea-making and trivia".

The union, a cornerstone of the Anglican Church since its foundation in 1876, has seen membership fall in Britain by 100,000 over the past ten years to just 140,000 members. The survey, carried out by NOP, found many members felt the organisation was "too cliquey" and "almost like a secret society". Special derision was reserved for the name "Mothers' Union", which members felt was inaccurate and anachronistic.

The harsh judgements, which were disclosed just days before Mothering Sunday, were presented to members in the union's magazine, *Home & Family*.

Magaret Duggan, the magazine's editor, writes in the spring edition: "The research painted a bleak picture of ageing membership, lack of dynamic leadership, a resistance to change, loss of practical value and prestige and an organisation out of step with today's environment and the changing role of women."

Many members felt the age of members was too high. Mrs Duggan added: "The general image of the Mothers' Union is of an elderly organisation,


Lady Eames: taking the survey seriously

so cliquish as to be regarded almost as a secret society and of no relevance to younger women."

Lady Eames, worldwide president of the Mothers' Union, said the trustees were taking the findings of the survey "very seriously indeed". While acknowledging that the membership had declined in Britain, Lady Eames pointed out that overseas interest is strong, with 750,000 members worldwide.

"There is enormous enthusiasm for the Mothers' Union in other parts of the world. What we are finding in the UK is reflected right across the board among all women's organisations. There are now so many things competing for women's time and interest and commitment that I think they are being very selective about the organisations they are willing to join or be identified with."

Lady Eames said it was "very possible" the name "Mothers' Union" would be reconsidered. "The Mothers' Union is very proud of its past, but for the first time, the signs are there is a leaning towards a change of name," said Lady Eames, whose husband is the Archbishop of Armagh.

The Mothers' Union, which is one of the world's largest Christian organisations, has always regarded itself as a defender of the sanctity of marriage. Divorced women were not allowed to join the Mothers' Union until a change of rules in 1973.

In 1974 a new Royal Charter for the organisation was granted that allowed anyone baptised to be a member, including unmarried mothers and men. In 1993, the Mothers' Union opened a branch in Holloway Prison. Nine women prisoners with babies promised to uphold the organisations's aims, including a commitment to bringing up children in the life of the Church.

There are 5,558 Mothers' Union branches in Anglican parishes in Britain and the organisation works in 150 Anglican dioceses in other countries. At midday each day members are expected to join together in prayer.

RICHARD LAPPAS


Toni Bradley describes the compliments she received on her first day back

Teacher returns to class as woman

By David Charter

A SEX change science teacher who took his last class as a man on Valentine's Day won compliments on her return to school yesterday wearing black tights, a long wig and and short black skirt.

Toni Bradley, who teaches biology, chemistry and physics at St Peter's Church of England School in Exeter, said she enjoyed her first day back despite the occasional gibe by pupils.

A dozen parents wrote to the school expressing concerns when the former Tony Bradley announced his intention last month to become Ms Bradley. But they were outnumbered three-to-one by letters of support and a petition.

"It has been a very good a succesful day," said the 37-year-old at the end of the school day. "Everyone has been very kind.

"I have had many compliments about the way I look. There have been a few comments but teachers do get barracked every now and again. I ignore it and give it the contempt it deserves."

Ms Bradley said her major concern in class was in controlling her voice, which tended to deepen if she had to shout at rowdy pupils.

Mark Perry, the head teacher, wrote to parents that Ms Bradley had been diagnosed as having gender identity disorder, and should be treated as a woman. Her complete transformation could take 18 months.

Family split by lottery jackpot

By Dareh Gregorian

THE NATIONAL Lottery tore a struggling family apart when a woman who had just won a £1.3 million jackpot changed the locks on her door and dumped the father of her two children to pursue a life of luxury, a court was told yesterday.

"She's taken away everything that was ever important to me, our love and our children. If we hadn't won the lottery, we'd still be together, poor but happy." David Jones said.

Mr Jones, 34, is suing his former common-law wife Lisa Lee, 30, for half of her winnings, using Legal Aid representation, even though he told the court he had been defrauding social security benefits.

The couple won the prize on April 29, 1995, when they were both receiving state benefits and living on £200 a week in their council home on the Mayhill estate in Swansea, Cardiff County Court was told.

His barrister, Carolyn Walton, said that Mr Jones, an unemployed carpenter, and Miss Lee, a former cleaner, had a stable relationship for 11 years and "were living together as man and wife until July 1995, when he went to visit his mother and brother in Bournmouth. Around that time Lisa changed the locks of the flat and the relationship broke up."

Mrs Walton said the couple "shared their household finances, including the purchase of lottery tickets and he is claiming half of these winnings. Mr Jones accepts that at times he was living at a separate address to Miss Jones. He says that was done to maximise the amount they could claim on benefits because they were able to get separate housing allowances.

"He realises he could be incriminating himself by giving this evidence, and may be liable to prosecution, but he is willing to accept the consequences in order to give all the facts to the court.

"Mr Jones says that if he is successful with this case he will go to the benefits office and repay all the money which is owed to them as a result of the fiddle. If he loses he will not be able to repay the money and could face prosecution. But it is a risk he is willing to take."

Miss Lee and their two children, aged 6 and 2, have moved into a £300,000 clifftop home overlooking Langland Bay with a Jacuzzi, sauna and swimming pool.
The case continues

Gabrielle called in murder trial

THE pop singer Gabrielle yesterday told a court that her former lover — who is accused of murdering his stepfather — was a kind and considerate person. Gabrielle, real name Louise Bobb, was giving evidence for the prosecution on the third day of the trial at Nottingham Crown Court.

The prosecution allege her former boyfriend Anthony Antoniou, and another man, Timothy Redhead, killed Walter McCarthy, 59, and dumped his headless body at a beauty spot off the A57 in the Peak District. The head was discovered in woodland in Bedfordshire.

Gabrielle, who has a son by Mr Antoniou, arrived at court by taxi and smiled briefly at the child's father as she took the stand. She told the court that he was not an aggressive person and had treated her well. She said her relationship with Mr Antoniou had begun


Gabrielle: said that her former lover was kind

on a business footing but they had later became lovers. "He was a kind and considerate man who would spoil me rotten," she said.

Mr Antoniou, a Greek Cypriot, began seeing Gabrielle in 1992, the court has been told. It is alleged that, after the killing, he turned up at her flat in Lewisham, south London, "out of the blue". While staying there, he is said to have set fire to his Nissan turbo car, which was allegedly used in the murder.

The prosecution has claimed that Mr McCarthy, who married Antoniou's mother Aphrodite in 1979, was probably attacked from behind as he sat in the front seat of the car.

Mr Antoniou has told police that Mr McCarthy boasted of being unfaithful to his stepson's mother, and said that he had abused children.

The jury of five women and seven men listened for almost an hour as Dr Clive Bouch, a Home Office pathologist, listed almost 60 injuries to the body — including 52 stab wounds. He said several of these had cut through bone and major internal organs, and one had virtually severed a hand. The beheading was the result of several blows from a weapon. Under cross examination from James Hunt, QC, defending Mr Antoniou, Dr Bouch said the decapitation had probably occurred after death, or "during the process of dying".

Gabrielle said that, although Mr Antoniou had attended the birth of their son in April 1995, their relationship by then had ended.

She said she was aware that on Mr McCarthy had been found dead eight months later on December 23, and she had seen a picture of Mr Antoniou, whom she had last seen at the birth, on the television news.

Mr Antoniou, 30, from Parsons Cross, Sheffield, and Mr Redhead, 29, from Woodhouse, Sheffield, deny murder. The trial continues today.

Hats off to jobless secretary who was inspired by Thatcher

By Paul Wilkinson

AN UNEMPLOYED secretary who took Margaret Thatcher's advice and set up her own business has won her fight against officials who tried to close her down.

In 1986, June Jordinson used her £1,000 savings and secured £40 a week from the Government's Enterprise Allowance Scheme to set up a hat hire service from her home in Darlington, Co Durham. The business blossomed, until a complaint from a neighbour to the town's planning department.

Darlington council ordered Mrs Jordinson, 62, to apply for retrospective planning permission and then turned down her application in spite of a 200-signature petition from other neighbours and customers. The planners followed up with an order to cease trading.

Yesterday she learnt that her appeal, which she conducted herself before a Department of Environment inspector, had been successful. "I am absolutely delighted, not just for me but for all the wonderful customers who wrote in supporting me. Justice has prevailed," she said.

"I want to carry on the business until I am 65 and my pension and life policies come into force, and I will retire to the seaside. If I had been forced to stop now I would be unemployed again and it would ruin all my retirement plans.

"The business does not earn a great deal. It keeps me ticking over but I couldn't afford to open up a shop. I thought I had done everything by the book when setting up. This all started because of a single complaint that visitors caused traffic problems, but that just isn't the case. There is only one visitor at a time, as everyone is given a one-hour appointment."

Mrs Jordinson, a divorcée, was made redundant in 1986. "I got the idea of a hat business after hiring one for my daughter's wedding. It was a time when Margaret Thatcher was encouraging people to set up, so when I visited the job centre I applied to join the Enterprise Allowance Scheme," she said.

Clients can choose from 500 hats bought from some of London's leading milliners. She makes her own trimmings, so one hat can suit several outfits. Once they have passed their best they go to Oxfam.

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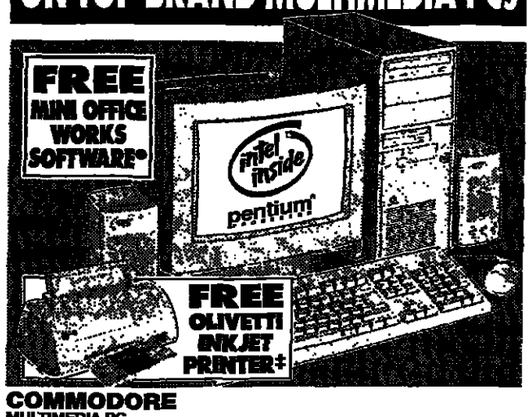


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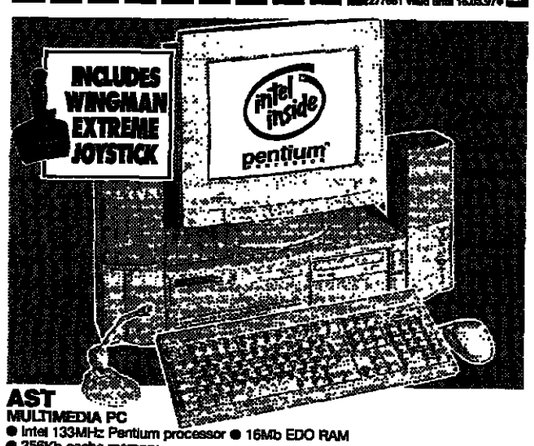
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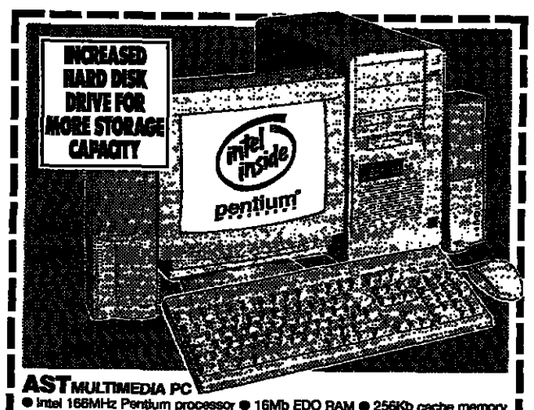
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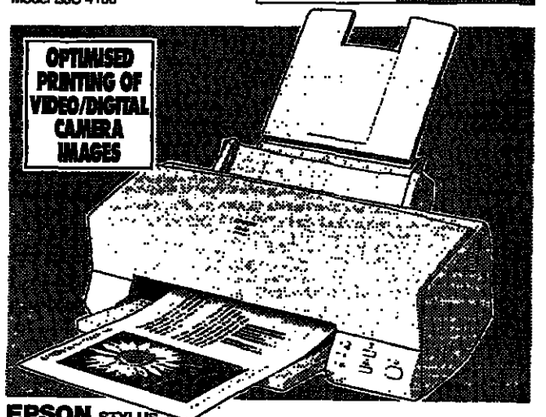
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When shedding 4½ stone requires nerves of Steel



Lady Steel and Sir David in her days at 15 stone

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE shedding of 4½ stone in nine months by a 15-stone Lady Steel rivals the dramatic weight loss achieved by her husband's political opponent, Lord Lawson of Blaby, when he was on a diet. When he shrunk to a shadow of his former self, those who did not suspect he had some terrible wasting disease wondered about the lifestyle that frequently leads to obesity in politicians.

Politicians' lives, if they are to keep in contact with opinion formers, tend to revolve around eating and drinking. It requires great strength of will for even the most humble backbencher to reject all that is offered, and the temptations must be much greater for a former Chancellor such as Lord Lawson.

Even being careful, drinking at formal lunches and dinners would represent a weekly alcohol intake of 70 units, which the most liberal doctor would consider too much. The calorie intake from this drinking, as well as from the rich food served, would be enough to keep a miner working at the pit face.

It is not often realised that politicians' wives, as well as the MPs tucked away in Westminster, are faced with their own temptations to eat too much. Clinical obesity is every bit as dangerous to middle-aged women as it is to men, as they are no less liable to develop cardio-vascular disease once the menopause is over, and to suffer diabetes. They are also more in danger from osteoarthritis of the knees and hips.

The temptation for the wife who finds herself abandoned in the constituency is not the result of being served slap-up meals at L'Escargot or the Savoy: instead it centres on the larder in her own kitchen. After Sir David Steel had left his Scottish constituency on a Monday, Judy Steel spent her time restoring the family house, Aikwood Tower, in Scotland. But an interest in bricks and mortar would not have compensated for the loss of her partner's company at weekday meal times. In the lonely weeks which Lady Steel must have endured while her husband was in London, the pleasures of comfort eating must have proved every bit as beguiling as the entreaties of a Savoy waiter.

Losing 4½ stone has revolutionised Lady Steel's appearance, and she is reported as saying that it has given her an entirely new image of herself. She has revitalised her self-confidence, is no longer self-conscious in company, and when by herself in the fitting room of a boutique, can look in the mirror with pleasure.

She was given a target of 10½ stone when she started attending Scottish Slimmers, which she never thought she would achieve. But nine months following a pre-planned programme and suggested dieting recipes saw the pounds fall away.

Lady Steel's diet would delight the Health Education Council, for she has not lost weight so quickly that she has endangered her health. The diet has resulted in a weight loss of around half a stone a month, about 2lb a week, which is the approved medical rate. Weight loss for those who have the strength and will to continue with this regime, results in a reduction in their obesity which is likely to be maintained, so that the patient has the great satisfaction of knowing that once the diet is over they are less likely to put on the pounds again.

Very low-calorie diets — around 800 calories a day — have come in for criticism, but although Lady Steel, 56, did not adopt one, they can have a place in the battle against obesity. Any low-calorie diet must always be designed so that it contains enough protein to protect the essential organs, including the kidney and heart, from damage which might occur from excessive protein loss, and they must include a full complement of vitamins and trace elements. Ideally however, the seriously overweight should all follow Lady Steel's example and stick to a standard, well-balanced diet, but eat — and drink — less.



Revitalised, and 4½ stone lighter, after 9 months

Clones of humans 'possible in two years'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HUMAN clones could be created in less than two years, the scientist who created Dolly, the cloned sheep, said yesterday — although he added that such work should be banned.

Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, told MPs that he believed the technique could be applied to human beings, if researchers were determined. Appearing before the Science and Technology Select Committee, Dr Wilmut was asked how easy it would be to clone a person.

"I've hesitated to make predictions, but I'm sure if you really wanted to do it you could do it," he said. He told the MPs that his team had used more than a thousand unfertilised eggs to clone Dolly and this was a measure of the difficulties to be faced in cloning a human being. "But if you were prepared to make that sort of effort, you would expect to make significant progress in one or two years."

He said that everyone at the institute and PPL Therapeutics, the company collaborating with the cloning research team, believed that such work involving human embryos would be offensive and should be prohibited.

Professor Graham Bulfield, director of the institute, pointed out that in 15 years there had been no attempt to apply genetic modification to humans. But he could see "in extremis" circumstances where someone somewhere might attempt human cloning.

Dr Wilmut said the suggested applications for human cloning made no sense. "The idea that you can bring back a child, that you can bring back your father — it is simply nonsensical. You can make a genetically identical copy, but you can't get back the person you have lost." The scientists said that cloning work on farm animals would continue.

America's chief of medical research yesterday opposed a proposed ban on human cloning in the United States. Dr Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes for Health, said that while he found the idea of cloning experiments personally "offensive", society might find it morally defensible under certain conditions. If the technique were ever perfected for humans, he said, it could be employed in rare circumstances such as infertility in couples wishing to have genetically related offspring. In testimony before Congress, Dr Varmus said: "Maybe there are some situations in which we would find it ethical."

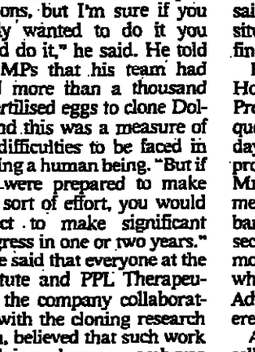
His comments came as House Republicans, defying President Clinton's earlier request to delay any action for 90 days, introduced two Bills to prohibit all human cloning. Mr Clinton this week implemented a temporary federal ban and urged the private sector to impose a voluntary moratorium on experiments while the National Bioethics Advisory Commission considered the issue.

After Dolly was cloned from cells removed from an adult ewe, researchers in Oregon announced that two rhesus monkeys had been cloned from embryo cells.

Vernon Ehlers, a Republican congressman for Michigan, said it was essential to introduce prohibitive legislation that would prevent public concern leading to a ban on all genetic research.

Dr Varmus, however, said that unless laws were very carefully drawn by Congress they could wreck valuable research that might save lives in the future and lead to greater food production on farms. The Senate is to debate the issue next week in hearings that will include testimony by Dr Wilmut.

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Buckingham Palace can now be visited from home as the Queen joins the Internet

Royal Web site answers most common queries

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE secret that cyberbuffs have spent a week desperately trying to crack is officially out. *http://www.royal.gov.uk* is the Queen's official address on the Internet.

Access to the royal Web site, inaugurated by the monarch's gloved hand pressing a button at Kingsbury High School in Brent, north London, yesterday, gives 35 million subscribers worldwide 150 pages of information on the British monarchy, including a section answering the questions most frequently put to staff at Buckingham Palace.

People want to know the strangest things. The Web site satisfies curiosity about two common queries: why does the Queen keep corgis (because her father did); what is the most exotic animal ever owned by the royal family (a Nubian giraffe given to George IV in 1827).

Most of the information on offer is in a weightier vein. The Web site offers a history of royal palaces, an explanation of the Queen's role in the British constitution, royal finances, forthcoming royal engagements, opening times of palaces and exhibitions and biographies of members of the Royal Family.

Diana, Princess of Wales has her own extensive entry, in which it is explained that "the Princess continues to be regarded as a member of the Royal Family", but the Duchess of York is relegated to a passing mention in her husband's life history.

For the time being, electronic conversation with the monarchy is one way, and users have no opportunity to ask their own questions or to send messages of support — or opposition.

An e-mail facility is being considered, but as the Queen already receives an average of 300 letters a day by post, palace officials are uncertain whether they could cope with a flood of electronic mail demanding instant answers. The Web site, properly known as The British Monarchy, and introduced with a picture of the Imperial State Crown, will also act as a market research tool, whereby users can leave their name, nationality and age group, and offer a brief comment on the quality of the service.

In a speech to school staff and pupils, whose backgrounds included almost every country in the Commonwealth, the Queen spoke for all the dinosaurs among her subjects whose grasp of information technology is still restricted to the telephone.

"I am sure that some of you have parents and grandparents at home who have found the Internet and the World Wide Web to be a bit of a mystery," she said. "But the Internet is rapidly becoming part of everyday life and, used properly, it opens the door to a huge range of knowledge which has no national boundaries. It is important that we all learn about the Internet, and get the most benefit from it."

The Duchess of York is relegated to a passing mention in her husband's life history

Phillip Snell, the headmaster of Kingsbury school, said that from today groups of children would be given the royal Web site address and it would be introduced in lessons where possible.

The Queen, who is reportedly rather less computer-literate than her husband, praised the global electronic information network for making it easier for people to learn more about each other, in Britain and around the world. She will pursue the theme in her annual Commonwealth Day message next week which will, naturally, be available on the royal Web site.

In April, a history section will be added to the royal Web site designed to meet national curriculum requirements, the section will include a history of the Crown from Anglo-Saxon times and a selection of historic speeches by English and British monarchs.

The Queen was shown around the school, which places great emphasis on computer technology, and saw pupils examining computer data from their own weather station on the roof and matching it with computer-generated weather maps taken from satellites.

She saw other pupils using computer information to learn chemistry, and yet more exchanging messages with Nakina Public School in Ontario, Canada, hooked up to Kingsbury by a computer and live video link.

It was there that the limitations of technology were finally unmasked. The Queen pressed another button on a computer mouse to send a message of greeting through the Internet to the Canadian school. It would, she was assured, take only four minutes to get there and there would be an instant reply. "It's rather fun to be able to talk to people such a long way away," she said intrigued.

But there was an inexplicable delay, possibly caused by overexcitement in Ontario. By the time Nakina had pressed the correct button to send their return message, the Queen had left and was on her way back to Buckingham Palace. She who keeps corgis cannot be hanging about when they need to be fed.

SIMON WALKER



The Queen arriving at Kingsbury High School to launch her Web site, whose address is marked by a crown



How the Palace is made to click

http://www.royal.gov.uk

The royal Web site designed by the Government's Central Office of Information is far removed from the gimmick-ridden sites of other recent launches.

One of the few advanced aspects enables users to download the Queen's family tree dating from the birth of Queen Victoria; otherwise the simplicity means that it will be easy for even the wobbliest Internet surfer to navigate. Every page is headed with the royal crest on a crimson bar.

Palace officials have taken advantage of this direct line to an estimated 35 million Internet users to include the full text of press releases issued from Buckingham Palace. On the commercial side, the site gives information about the royal palaces and estates, including details for tourists such as opening times and admission charges for the Buckingham Palace State Rooms.

In line with the site's restrained nature, it has avoided online booking, as used by some of the more modern Internet sites, and instead provides telephone numbers for credit card booking by more traditional methods.

But many thousands will be satisfied by just a virtual visit. And anyone as snobbish as Hyacinth Bucket will be delighted at the opportunity to sign the site's "visitors' book".

Grapefruit makes a great start to the day

EATING fruit at breakfast can give an energy boost that will last the morning, because its vitamins and natural sugars are released into the bloodstream more slowly than those from sugary cereals. Grapefruit, now in plentiful supply, is a good source of vitamin C and potassium. The pink varieties are sweeter. Choose weighty fruit, which will have more juice.

Promotions include:

Asda: pork chops £2.99 a kg, frozen haddock fillets in crumb £1.99 for 800g, figs 39p for two, black seedless grapes 79p lb.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Budgens: pork chops £3.72 a kg, whole fresh chicken £2.72 for 1.5kg, large eggs 99p for 12, red potatoes 99p for 5kg, Empire apples 49p lb.
Co-op (CWS): sirloin steak £8.99 a kg, haddock £4.99 a kg, mangoes 66p each, blue stilton £5.95 a kg, pure orange juice £1.75 a ltr.
Harrods: chicken and herb pie £1.79 for 100g, Bayonne ham £3.79 for 100g, Spanish artichokes £1.99 for two.
Iceland: smoked salmon ring £4.99 for 380g, sliced green beans 99p for 907g, baby carrots 69p for 907g, double chocolate cheesecake £1.49 for 400g.
Marks & Spencer: £1 off all prepared joints of beef, lamb and pork, chicken breast portions £3.29 for four, mini Melton Mowbray pork pies £1.29 for six.
Safeway: rump steak £7.49 a kg, chicken breast fillets £7.99 for eight (1.19kg), meat lasagne 69p for 300g, mature Cheddar £2.09 a lb, parsnips 35p a lb, white potatoes £1.39 for 5kg, green cabbage 19p a lb, clementines 65p lb.
Sainsbury's: boneless shoulder pork £2.19 a kg, New Zealand shoulder lamb £3.45 a kg, iceberg lettuce 55p each, grapefruit 29p each, red seedless grapes 99p a lb.
Somerfield: pork chump steaks £4.38 a kg, chicken thighs £1.99 a lb, lamb chops £10.09 a kg, new potatoes 14p a lb, courgettes 49p a lb, celery sticks 59p for 300g, large yellow melons £1.39 each.
Tesco: beef forerib £5.19 a kg, boneless rolled pork shoulder £2.29 a kg, haddock fillet £1.95 a lb, kippers 99p a lb, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, Golden Wonder potatoes 59p for 2.5kg, plums 69p a lb.
Waitrose: chicken legs £1.99 a kg, diced steak £2.29 for 340g, ground pork £1.99 for 500g, carrots 69p a kg, Wilja potatoes 89p for 2.5kg, small vine tomatoes £1.49 for 300g, lemons 99p for eight, fresh orange juice £1.99 l.

ROBIN YOUNG





Buyers offer sealed bids for scarce properties

Home sellers earn bonus from 'golden postcodes'

BY KATHERINE BERGEN AND GLEN OWEN

ESTATE agents say "golden postcode" areas are emerging in Britain where the number of buyers far exceeds sellers and it is almost impossible to find a house. Some areas have an average of 11 buyers for every new home for sale, according to a survey by Black Horse Agencies.

Earlier this week a three-bedroom cottage in Eland Road, Battersea, south London, went on the market for £185,000 with Foxtons and in six hours 21 people had viewed it and four offers of the asking price were submitted. It sold the following day for more than £200,000 after sealed bids.

The fastest selling areas are Alton in Hampshire, Cambridge, Chelmsford in Essex, Southampton, Richmond in southwest London, Slough, Norwich, Derby, Guildford and Letchworth, Hertfordshire. The average number of viewers for each house from the time it is put on the market until it is sold ranges from three in Derby to nine in Slough and up to 14 in Richmond.

Traditonally expensive areas of London are experiencing the boom, according to Louise Hewlett of Aylesford. Houses in Chelsea that would have taken months to sell two years ago can now be sold instantly. "We would give our eye teeth to get an instruction on houses in Tregunter Road or The Boltons," she said. "In one recent case we offered someone £1 million over the market value of their family home and they still refused."



Once unfashionable areas are also becoming attractive. Richard Crosthwaite, a partner at Knight Frank, says money is rippling out from central London as far as Tooting to the south. "Houses with five or six bedrooms on the north side of Tooting Bec Common or off Trinity Road might have increased as much as £100,000 in the last year," he said.

Some price rises can be attributed to peculiar local factors. Hilary Wade at Winkworths said that the "bonus culture" in the City had pushed up Islington prices. "Islington is an historically undervalued area, and the bankers are pouring money into it," she said. Simon French, from Copping Joyce, said that house prices were soaring in Barnsbury, Tony Blair's Islington neighbourhood. "A house in his area worth £450,000 last year would now cost £525,000 at the very least, but they are very hard to get hold of. Once people go somewhere like that they do not want to move anywhere else."

Foreign buyers are also a significant presence in London. Philip Green at Goldschmidt and Howland, said that the effect of newly-acquired Russian money was being felt in many areas. "Russian cash buyers can afford multimillion pound properties in Bishops Avenue, a favourite of the Sultan of Brunei. There these enormous houses with high walls, sweeping drives and servants go to them for up to £25 million. No one else gets a look in," he said.

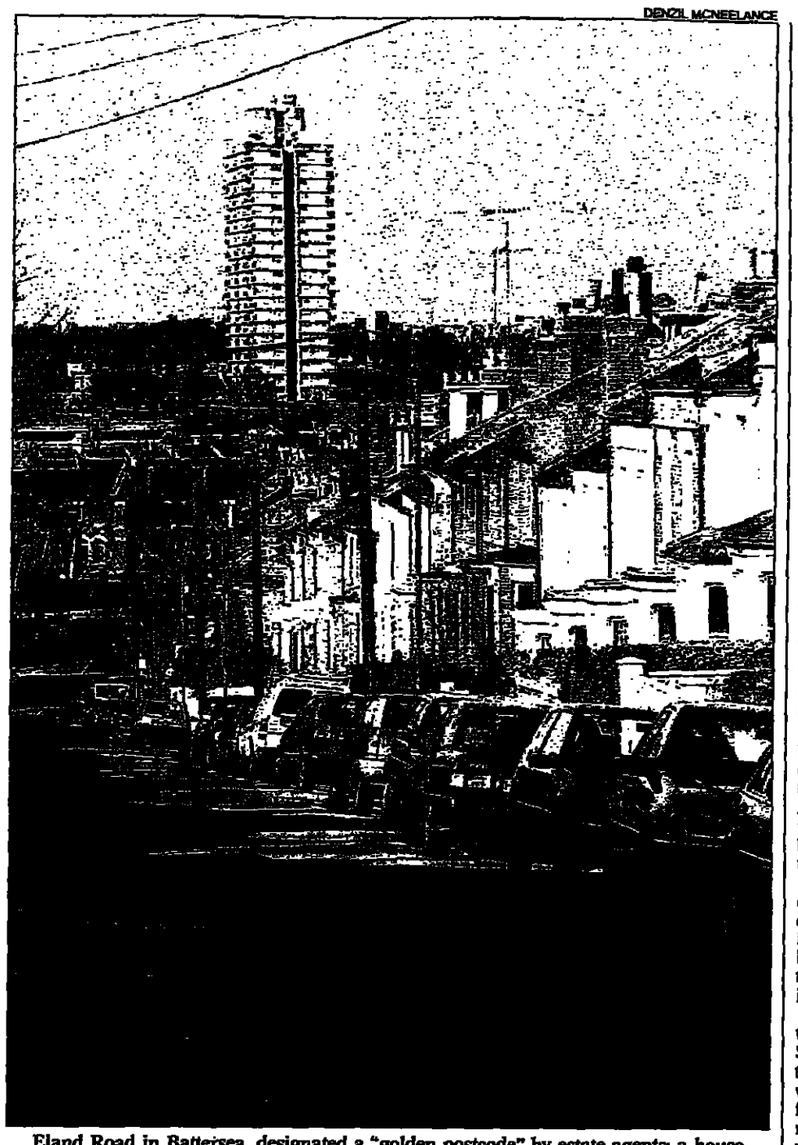
"People from different countries seem to have their favourite areas. There is also a lot of Russian money pouring into Pimlico, mostly cash buyers," Ms Wade said.

Hong Kong buyers are coming to Winkworth's Islington office, keen to invest in British housing because of doubts over the Chinese takeover.

Property speculators are pushing up prices in Blackheath in south London, pitting their hopes on the millennium exhibition at nearby Greenwich and the Jubilee Line extension. Money is also coming from the number of businesses relocating to Canary Wharf. Ms Wade said: "Many of the big banks are moving out to the wharf. Citibank being just the latest. That is having a huge effect on Blackheath, which can be reached quickly by car from there."

Colin Fitzgerald from Hamptons said that properties in Alton, Hampshire, were selling in only three weeks. "It isn't just Alton but the surrounding villages like Bentworth and Ropley as well that are moving so fast."

Richard Smith of Savills says anything within a mile of the station in Sevenoaks, Kent, is in huge demand, especially with private roads and priced over £400,000. Good local schools are also a big draw. "Modern and older properties alike which meet these criteria sell virtually overnight," he said.



DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Eland Road in Battersea, designated a "golden postcode" by estate agents; a house advertised at £185,000 recently sold for more than £200,000 amid furious competition

Troubled academics started fatal fire

TWO academics facing financial ruin died when they set fire to their rented home as bailiffs were on their way to evict them, an inquest was told yesterday. The couple locked themselves into their house and started six fires.

Dr Nigel Gauk-Roger and his wife, Dr Edwina Burness, both 46, owed thousands of pounds in rent arrears when they died last October. Just hours before their bodies were discovered in the burned-out bedroom of the farmhouse, in Six Mile Bottom, Cambridgeshire, Dr Gauk-Roger assured the property management company that he would comply with the eviction order. When the bailiffs arrived, the couple were locked inside their burning home.

The inquest at Histon, Cambridgeshire, heard that the couple owed £2,744 in arrears to the letting agents Camflats. Alan Baggott, of the company, told the hearing the couple had been given every opportunity to sort out the financial mess.

A post-mortem examination disclosed that the couple died of smoke inhalation and that Dr Burness, a part-time English lecturer at Anglia Polytechnic University, had terminal breast cancer.

Recording open verdicts on the couple, the Coroner, John Smith said: "It is quite clear that this was not a fire that was started by an electrical fault or discarded smoking materials. There is no doubt in my mind this was started deliberately."

Au pair's lawyers condemn police

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

LAWYERS representing Louise Woodward, the British au pair charged with the first degree murder of a nine-month-old baby in America, complained that she was not being treated fairly by the Massachusetts judiciary. The police were "squeezing" evidence, they said.

Miss Woodward's counsel said that the local police started with the assumption that the 19-year-old killed Matthew Eappen, the little boy she was looking after. Officers "worked backwards from that hypothesis, attempting to squeeze the investigative results into a pre-conceived pattern supporting their initial conclusion", according to the Boston law firm of Silverglate and Good, which recently took over Miss Woodward's case.

Miss Woodward has admitted shaking Matthew Eappen before he died, out of frustration at his incessant crying, but denies any intent to kill. Prosecutors believe they can show a pattern of abuse.

Matthew Eappen's mother, Deborah, criticised local the local Mayor and others who have called for Miss Woodward to be granted bail, claiming she represented "a very high flight risk".



Littlejohn: controversial

Littlejohn takes over Baker slot

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE outspoken newspaper columnist and television presenter Richard Littlejohn is to take over from Danny Baker, who was sacked as host of Radio 5 Live's Saturday lunchtime football talkshow yesterday for making abusive remarks about a referee.

Baker is to join Talk Radio to present a Saturday afternoon football show. The two men will not compete head on, however. Baker's show will go out between 5.30pm and 7.30pm: Littlejohn's from noon to 1pm. Littlejohn said yesterday: "I want the programme to be controversial and the fans won't be getting an easy time from me."

Letters, page 21

The tramp spurns job that lady won for him

BY ADRIAN LEE

SHE was a wealthy aristocrat, he was down on his luck, begging in the street. Huddled against the cold with only his alsatian dog for company, the plight of Oliver Lomasney touched Sara Apsley.

Not content with handing him £1 on the streets of Cirencester and buying him food, Lady Apsley helped him to land a labouring job. But yesterday, the tale of the Lady and the Tramp had an unhappy ending. The 25-year-old walked out of his job after less than three weeks.

Mike Suggs, site manager on the Cirencester bypass for Road Management Services, who agreed to employ Mr Lomasney, said: "He just didn't turn up for work one day. I'm afraid there are a lot more deserving lads round who have had a far harder background than him."

Lady Apsley, 31, of Cirencester Park, refused to be downcast. "I gather he has found a happier path. He has met up with his former girlfriend and they have got re-engaged. For reasons of his own he has decided the life and job here were not for him." Friends who were involved in protests against the bypass had also put him under pressure, she said.

FINAL NOTICE

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LIMITED EDITION PRINTS, OLEOGRAPHS, ETCHINGS AND PRINTS BY: L.S Lowry, D'Aguilar, Domingo, Felix Serra, G. Lindsay, J. Threlfall, Susan Parks, R. Gilronan, Sir William Russell Flint, Gordon King, De Breanski, J.W. Turner, Haward Hardy, Marcus Stone. Est. From £20 68 Lots

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Irish pen pushers lose their civil war

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S army of civil servants will be held accountable for their work for the first time and sacked for underperformance in the greatest shake-up of the civil service since British rule.

Irish government workers, who number nearly 20,000, will no longer be able to blame their ministers for their own incompetence. In the Public Service Management Bill published yesterday, staff will be punished if their work is inadequate.

The civil service set up in 1924 by the Irish Free State was based on the British system. However, it gradually grew out of control with employees in jobs for life and responsible for nothing. Workers — no matter how lowly — could only be sacked if the entire government agreed. This seldom happened as politicians were lobbied in rural areas by relatives of the civil servants. If the civil servants lost their jobs, the politicians lost their votes.

Colm Gallagher, a senior civil servant involved in drawing up the Bill, said: "We have probably had an over-compassionate attitude to non-performance over the years. If the civil servants put obstacles in the way of dismissal, then we would probably let them sit there for 20 years until they were ready to retire at 65."

The Bill allows for the replacement of government department secretaries by secretaries general, who, for the first time, will be given responsibility for achieving specific policy targets set by ministers. Secretaries will be able to hire and fire employees. The Government will only be involved in the firing of very senior servants.

But the proposed changes are viewed sceptically by former employees such as the 70-year-old playwright Hugh Leonard. He spent 14 years until 1959 shuffling papers in the civil service. Still holding "a black affection" for the civil service, he said: "Mine was the civil service from hell. It was depressing, full of petty tyranny. But once a civil servant always a civil servant. I do not hold out much hope of a new dawn."

SIMON WALKER



The changing of the guard on the newly cleared Horse Guards Parade yesterday, and below, how the area looked when parking for hundreds of cars was permitted

Bashed square back on parade fit for a king

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THERE are no parked cars in Canaletto's depiction of Horse Guards Parade. Now, for the first time since 1916, the great national parade ground behind Whitehall has been returned to how it was when the artist saw it soon after Charles II built it as the mustering ground for his newly-raised Life Guards.

As part of a £1 million improvement scheme, the parade ground has been cleared of clutter and visually reunited with St James's Park: the black Tarmac road that separates them has been covered in golden gravel to create one continuous vista, as the King intended.

But more importantly, up to 150 government ministers, civil servants and political journalists working unsocial hours who had permits to park on the parade have been banished to the north side of The Mall, and no parking of any kind will be allowed to spoil the view from Horse Guards Arch. All that remains of modern clutter is a Royal Parks police box.

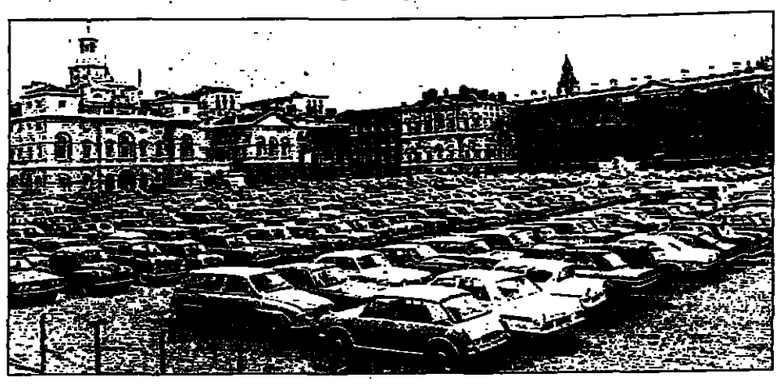
The parade ground is bounded on one side by the Old Admiralty, which houses some Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments, and on the other by the high garden wall of 10 and 11 Downing Street. Officials would not discuss security yesterday, but the Department of National Heritage said: "You may be assured that the area will be policed."

Clearing Horse Guards has the backing of World Squares For All, a consultation group headed by Sir Norman Foster, the architect, which is looking at ways to improve squares in Westminster, including pedestrianising Trafalgar Square in front of the National Gallery, and part of Parliament Square. However, the group concedes that diverting the large volume of traffic could be a headache in both cases.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said yesterday that 26 million tourists visited the United Kingdom in 1996: "Our great heritage attractions are one of the main reasons why people come here. Now Horse Guards Parade can take its proper place as a heritage showpiece."

Opening up the parade is in line with the recommendations of the Royal Parks review group, which also favours the pedestrianisation of the Buckingham Palace frontage. Dame Jennifer Jenkins, the group's chairwoman, said yesterday: "We are pleased that another step has been taken to enable people to walk with greater safety and comfort in the parks and their surroundings."

Horse Guards is the national parade ground, used for the Trooping the Colour ceremony on the Queen's official birthday in June, Beating Retreat ceremonies during the summer, a daily changing of the guard, and the formal reception of heads of the state. The first beneficiary of the improved surroundings was President Ezer Weizman of Israel, who was received by the Queen there at the start of his state visit last week.



Bittersweet remedy is equal of drugs for sore throat

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

HOT drinks of honey and lemon, or a similar remedy, will ease a sore throat as quickly as a course of antibiotics, a study has found. Prescribing antibiotics makes no difference to the speed with which patients recover and should be avoided by doctors in all but severe illnesses, according to researchers at the University of Southampton.

A trial of 716 patients compared three groups: those given a ten-day prescription for antibiotics; those given a prescription to start after three days; and those given no prescription. All got better equally quickly.

By day three, about a third of the patients in each group were better: two thirds of those whose prescription was due to start then did not bother using it. There was no significant difference in the length of illness or days off work or school among the groups.

However, those patients who received antibiotics immediately were more convinced about their effectiveness and were more likely to say they would consult the doctor again for a sore throat in the future. In fact, evidence shows that antibiotics increase the recurrence of infection by altering the bacteria in the throat and limiting the development of natural immunity.

Dr Paul Little and colleagues say in the *British Medical Journal* that giving an immediate prescription encourages the medicalisation of a self-limiting illness (one that will get better without treatment) without affecting its course. Many patients go to their GP to legitimise their illness, either for work or family and friends.

The study also found that patients who were more satisfied recovered more quickly and that satisfaction related to how well the doctor dealt with the patients' concerns.

Dr Little said: "I am afraid it is true that for people who are moderately ill with sore throats it doesn't make any difference what they take. The message for doctors is that it is well worth exploring the patients' concerns because that is likely to improve satisfaction, and the more satisfied patients are, the quicker they get better."

☐ Antibiotics are ineffective in treating acute sinusitis according to a study of 214 patients reported in *The Lancet*. Researchers at St Elizabeth Hospital in Tilburg, The Netherlands, compared two groups of patients whose inflamed sinuses had been confirmed by X-ray. One was given antibiotics and the other a placebo. There was no difference in the speed of recovery or the number of relapses one year after treatment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boil water warning is extended to more homes

More householders were told yesterday to *boil their water* after an infection caused by a microscopic parasite in tap water extended to new areas. Three Valleys Water, which has already alerted 300,000 people in Hertfordshire and north London to the problem, issued warnings to a further 25,000 people in parts of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire.

Tanker pledge

Messer UK, a transport company that has been using the same vehicles to supply carbon dioxide to Scottish Nuclear and food and drinks companies, has agreed to use separate tankers after fears of possible contamination in a radioactive leak last month.

Car dragged PC

PC Craig Key, 36, suffered cuts and bruising after being dragged for a mile behind a car at up to 60mph in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. He was attacked by five car thieves when his alsatian bit one of them. Four youths were later arrested.

School bus injury

A girl on her way home on a school bus fell through a window and was left dangling by her ankle. Stephanie Murphy, 14, of Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, broke her ankle and injured her back, shoulder and rib. The bus firm's contract was suspended.

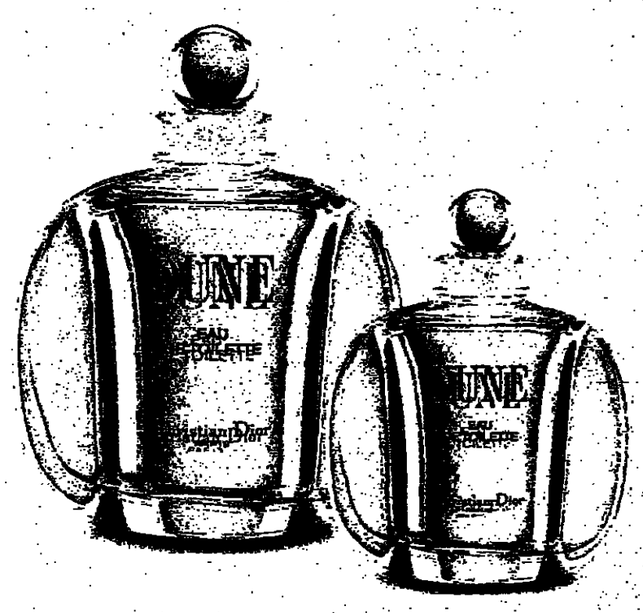
Glimmer of hope

Plans for a bypass that would have destroyed a significant colony of the rare glow-worm have been postponed. Gloucestershire County Council is to suspend a decision on the Tewkesbury bypass until an 18-month study of options has been completed.

Lewis in London

The American comic Jerry Lewis is to make his West End debut at the age of 70. He will play the lead in *Damn Yankees*, which opens at the Adelphi Theatre in June. He has already appeared in the musical on Broadway and on an American tour.

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'The Victorians went to stare at the animals. That is no longer enough today'

Substandard zoos face closure under Labour

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

A NUMBER of zoos face closure under a Labour government, it was disclosed yesterday. Elliot Morley, the Opposition spokesman on animal welfare, said regulations would be introduced to drive up standards at zoos and wildlife parks.

The stricter controls have the backing of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland, whose members include London, Chester, Bristol and Edinburgh zoos. In addition, the import of some species, such as polar bears, which research indicates suffer psychologically in captivity, may be banned. "I do not think zoos will be keeping some species when the last ones in captivity die," Mr Morley said.

The Labour spokesman told a meeting at London Zoo that instead of being merely money raising ventures, zoos of all sizes would have to meet modern standards on welfare, education, science and conservation. "Zoos were set up in Victorian times to exhibit animals as novelties where people came to stare. That was enough then but is no longer enough today."

Mr Morley said that some smaller zoos, together with those at theme parks, had not made the transition from side show to the sophistication demanded by the public, which would also be required by Labour. A Labour government would set up a Captive Animal Welfare Council, mirroring the existing Farm Animal Welfare Council, which maintains standards in agriculture, to draft minimum standards and to enforce them, he said.

There would also be an independent assessment of the Zoo Licensing Act, which covers anyone wishing to show animals to the public. The Act mainly concerns health and safety issues, rather than the wider issues of welfare, research, education and conservation. "The Act is fairly limited," Mr Morley said. "It is also applied by local authorities with disparate standards. A zoo council, with a director-general, will lay down uniform standards nationally and each zoo will have a mission statement."

He conceded that some zoos with shoddy standards, insufficient vision, or funds to raise standards, would be under threat. "It is likely some will have to close." Mr Morley, a former council member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said a Labour government would consider setting up a closure fund for relocating animals at zoos that were closed.

He also pledged Labour support for an EU-led Zoo Directive, which is backed by the federation and by anti-zoo groups such as Zoo Check and the Born Free Foundation, co-founded by the actress Virginia McKenna. The directive would set minimum standards across the EU.

Mr Morley said he had visited, officially and incognito, a dozen zoos in Britain before formulating Labour's strategy and had been both gratified and appalled by the varying standards he had seen. He contrasted the poorer establishments with a small zoo at Alfriston, East Sussex, called Drusillas. "It is a small zoo, with a small number of animals and with not a great deal of money. But it is doing great and very positive work with children."

Ms McKenna said: "We welcome the important steps proposed by the Labour Party. I particularly applaud the independent assessment of the Zoo Licensing Act, the establishment of a Captive Animal Council, the commitment to a European Zoo Directive and the possible establishment of a guaranteed closure fund. I feel that zoo animals are starting to get the consideration they deserve."

A spokesman for the federation said it was less confident that Labour could secure Europe-wide laws on zoo standards. The plan, which could have led to shoddy zoos across Europe being closed, is expected to come before the European Commission in May. However, the proposals have been watered down into a recommendation, which would allow national governments to ignore them. Mr Morley said Labour would press for the recommendation to be upgraded to a directive during the British presidency of the EU in 1998.

Leading article, page 21



ANDREW HASSON

Children can see the meerkats at close quarters through a transparent dome in their enclosure at Drusillas, where they learn through play

It's cool to be a meerkat in Drusillas' model world

By Nick Nuttall

DRUSILLAS zoo nestles in a fold of the South Downs near Alfriston, East Sussex, and is, according to Labour, a model for small zoos in the late 20th century.

The zoo keeps only animals that appear to thrive in captivity and their enclosures are designed to be as close to an animal's natural habitat as is practically possible. Kitty Ann, one of the zoo's directors, said that their meerkats lived in sand, deep enough to burrow, among scrub trees mirroring the animals' native habitat in South Africa.

The philosophy of the zoo is that young visitors not only see the animals but learn to understand where they live and how they survive. Children gain knowledge through play and entertaining practical exercises.

Next to the meerkats' enclosure is another sandpit into which the children can, like the animals, burrow as if being chased by a predatory eagle. The children, aged up to 12, emerge at the centre of a clear dome, from which they can see the real animals around them. Near the African wild cats is a pole. "We tell the children that it can jump six feet to catch a bird. So how high can they jump?" Ms Ann said.

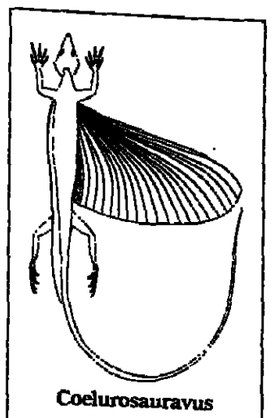
The zoo, which has a children's board of directors, also uses its animals to teach young people about the environment. Near the penguins' enclosure, young visitors are dressed in flippers, snorkels, and fake fur coats, and are then handed a fishing line.

Drusillas has 200,000 visitors a year. Ms Ann said the most popular activity was linked to the beaver collection and involved pulling a rope with levers and weights through a hole. "They can see how much pulling power a beaver has when it is handling a log, or a fox when it is attacking a rabbit."

The zoo is planning an exhibition about North American Indians this year. Children will not only learn about Indian culture but how different animals, such as the buffalo, the beaver and the salmon, shaped tribal lives.

COLLECTIONS

THERE are around 300 zoos in Britain, ranging from the flagship establishments such as London to small collections of owls, birds of prey or even butterflies. Any collection of wild, as opposed to domestic animals, that is shown to the public for more than seven days a year is considered a zoo, as are aquaria such as sea life centres. Some 60 zoos are members of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland and abide by its guidelines. The federation was set up in 1966 by several zoological societies amid concern that the growing animal welfare movement might damage their future by securing unbalanced, anti-zoo legislation. It set standards of welfare and inspected members to ensure they were maintained.



Coelurosauravus

An old reptile wins over new fans

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE oldest flying reptile spread its wings like a fan, gliding from tree to tree 100 million years before the first bird. Recently discovered fossils of the *Coelurosauravus jaekeli* have shown that the foot-long creature had a gliding apparatus unlike that of any other animal.

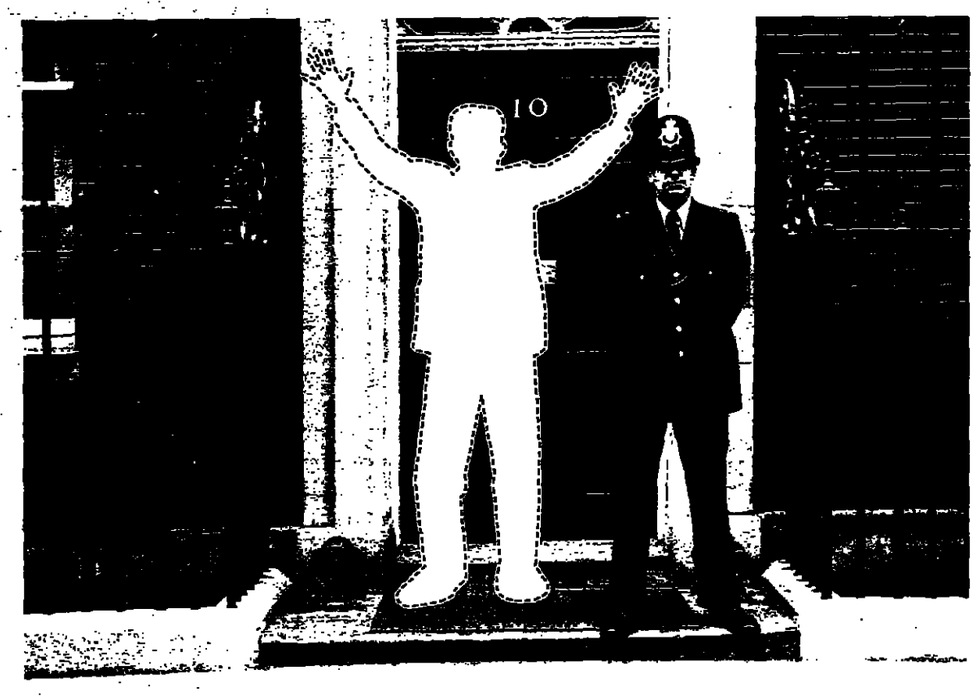
The hollow bones that strengthened its wings formed in the skin and were not attached to any other part of the skeleton. It could not flap its wings, but used them to glide at up to 30mph.

A team from the State Museum of Natural History in Karlsruhe, Germany and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada, report in *Science* that new specimens collected by amateur fossil-hunters from the spoil tips of abandoned copper mines in the state of Hesse, central Germany, have at last clarified the anatomy of the reptile.

The first specimens were found in 1910 by a miner, who labelled it "flying reptile". He sold it to the palaeontologist Otto Jaekel, who thought it so improbable that he concluded the wing ribs were the fin rays of a fish superimposed on the reptile, and removed them. But further specimens later proved the miner had been right.



Morley and eagle owl at London Zoo: seeking raising of standards



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Howard cleared of bribe slur

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Home Secretary, was cleared yesterday of accepting a £1.5 million bribe to open an inquiry into Mohamed Al Fayed's takeover of House of Fraser.

A four-month Commons investigation rejected the allegation, which was made by Mr Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, in *his long-running feud with* Tiny Rowland, former chief executive of Lonrho.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, interviewed 27 witnesses and examined 1,600 pages of evidence, including details of Mr Howard's bank accounts to discover whether the minister had unexplained income. Sir Gordon concluded that the allegation, relating to Mr Howard's time as Corporate Affairs Minister, should be "authoritatively and publicly dismissed".

He questioned Mr Al Fayed's motives, saying *that his version of the truth* in this case appeared to have been distorted by emotion. "He is believing what he wants to believe."

Mr Al Fayed, an Egyptian-born businessman, has fought an expensive campaign to try to prove that Mr Howard is behind repeated refusals to grant him British citizenship.

Cook tells Europe: I'm here to prepare for government

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR'S "government-in-waiting" is preparing to lift several British veto threats to a revamped Maastricht treaty and expects to agree a new text with other EU states before the Amsterdam summit in June, Robin Cook said yesterday.

Projecting himself as the next Foreign Secretary, Mr Cook said that Labour was ready for swift action to remove obstacles laid by Tory ministers at the intergovernmental conference (IGC), which is revising the treaty. But he said that Labour would insist on a measure allowing Britain to keep passport controls while the rest of the EU pursued an open-frontier policy.

Mr Cook, who was in Brussels for talks with Jacques *Santer, President of the EU* Commission, also said he was bewildered by suggestions that his prediction on Tuesday of a "Labour landslide" risked *damaging the party's pros*pects. Tony Blair responded to the Shadow Foreign Secretary's remarks with a warning against complacency that was seen as a tacit rebuke.

The Labour leader said that Mr Cook, who was speaking at a party to mark the 60th anniversary of *Tribune*, was simply referring to the "sense of hope and excitement" in the party. Appearing on Granada TV's *This Morning*, Mr Blair said: "If you take people for granted, they very quickly remind you who is boss. We take nothing for granted. *This* has been a patient rebuilding of the Labour Party as the new Labour Party. We take our responsibility very seriously."

But Mr Cook was unfazed by Mr Blair's remarks and denied that he was being prematurely triumphal. "I am here this afternoon preparing for government," he said. "I am left bewildered at the suggestion that because the Opposition is preparing for government it is therefore being too cocky. I think that the Opposition would be perfectly fairly criticised and condemned if it was failing to prepare for government."

Setting out Labour's agenda *for a constructive approach to* Europe, Mr Cook said that the Government had trapped itself into constantly heckling from the sidelines. "We want *to get Britain playing a lead*ing role."

He said it was curious that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and a Scotsman, *had taken to preaching Eng*lish nationalism in Europe. The Tories had "sprayed promises to veto the IGC around every difficult issue" and no-one in Europe took them seriously. Labour would lift the Government's threat to block the IGC unless it won an exemption from the 48-hour week directive. Labour supported the law and would also *sign up to the social chapter*, bringing it inside the treaty. The chapter was kept as a protocol as a way of enabling Britain to opt out. Unlike the Tories, a Labour government would also back the insertion of an "employment chapter" in the new treaty, a scheme backed by most other member states.

Mr Cook implied that Labour would press outside the IGC for a solution to the dispute over "quota-hopping" by foreign fishing fleets. The Government says it will block the IGC unless the practice is ended.

He confirmed Labour's plan to allow laws to be passed by majority vote rather than unanimity in more areas, including policy over regional funds and agriculture. The Government is refusing to contem*plate any dilution of the veto.*

Labour would, however, refuse to abandon the veto in key fields such as taxation, treaty reform and other areas of vital national interest. In return, Britain would expect a heavier voting weight in the European council.

The party remained open-minded about plans for "flexibility", the jargon for a system that would allow Britain or other states effectively to opt out of new common policies. *Last month Mr Blair said he* opposed any flexibility arrangement that could be used to sideline Britain.

Beyond the IGC, Mr Cook said he was preparing intensively for Britain's turn in the EU presidency in the first half of next year. The priorities would be bolstering the single market and opening the EU to the new democracies of central and eastern Europe and Cyprus. "History will judge us very harshly indeed if we fail *these countries.*"

The British presidency will see the selection of countries qualified to launch monetary union. Mr Cook said there was a 50-50 chance that EMU would go ahead on time in 1999, but he would not be drawn on the prospects of British membership under a Labour government.

Leading article, page 21



Labour to make the best of uneasy peace in Scotland

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will address the Scottish Labour Party conference today after an eleventh-hour deal to settle a dispute that threatened to upset the election campaign.

The Labour leadership has called off an aggressive takeover of the Scottish Executive Committee by withdrawing the two candidates it was backing for the posts of chairman and treasurer. The nominations had met strong opposition.

An uneasy peace has now been established, which is being exploited by the conference organisers, who are stage-managing the Inverness event with minute precision. All the delegates, who began arrving yesterday, are expected to toe the party line.

The leadership's withdrawal of Sylvia Tudhope, a nominee of the engineering union, as chairman, and Jim Stevens, an economist and outspoken sceptic on some aspects of devolution, as treasurer, is being seen as a big concession by the old Labour pro-devolution faction. It means that the two remaining candidates, Jackie Baillie, the present vice-chairman, and Bob Thompson, the treasurer, will be elected unopposed.

The two posts are particularly significant as the holders will have an important say in choosing Labour candidates for a Scottish parliament and will help to determine the leadership's attitude to a referendum on devolution. Mr Thompson was particularly outspoken during Mr Blair's decision last June to hold a two-question referendum on Scotland. The Scottish executive finally backed the proposal for a referendum, including a separate vote on tax-raising powers, after a tense meeting with Mr Blair. But the manner of the deal provoked anger and in-fighting. The most recent attempt to stage a Blairite takeover of the executive was the last straw and many felt that a climbdown was inevitable.

The ructions are unlikely to spread to the conference floor today or tomorrow. Scottish Labour officials are now expert in spin-doctoring and controlling unruly delegates. They sport sharp suits and mobile phones and are far removed from the trade union-backed officials who ran the party in the past.

In an effort to ensure that nothing detracts from the leader's speech, no other Shadow Cabinet member will speak today and debates will be limited to about ten minutes each. On Saturday, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown will address the conference.

Even so, Mr Blair will be acutely aware that his personal stock remains low in Scotland, where a poll last year showed that to many voters he appears false and untrustworthy. This week, System Three poll for *The Herald* showed Labour down six points at 46 per cent.

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There's a great deal going on

Parties' report heralds progressive alliance

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The foundations for a sweeping programme of constitutional reform have now been put in place. Their ambitious scope is underlined by this week's report of the joint Labour and Liberal Democrat consultative committee. The proposals cover much more than the distant possibility of electoral reform, or even devolution, which have so far attracted most attention.

The 18-page report sets out an agreed programme on incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights (along the lines of Lord Lester's current Bill in the Lords), a freedom of information Act (though with important exclusions on policy advice to ministers), an independent national statistical service, directly elected legislatures in Scotland and Wales, an elected strategic authority in London and a stage-by-stage approach to devolution in the English regions, a commission on a voting system for Westminster to be appointed early in the next Parliament and to report within 12 months, a proportional system of voting based on regional lists for the European Parliament, far-reaching changes in the procedures of the Commons, ending the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords (as the first stage of a "process of reform") and legislation to give legal force to the civil service code of conduct. Phew! There is enough here to keep Parliament fully occupied for several sessions.

Many questions are begged or evaded. Apart from devolution, there is no indication of priorities or timing. On some issues, a new government would set up further inquiries, notably the commission to recommend an appropriate proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system to be put in a later referendum (at an indefinite future date). There is a suspicion that this is partly a way of delaying tricky decisions for the Labour leadership, but the Liberal Democrats are pleased that the commission's remit is specifically to find a proportional alternative (no doubt reflecting Robin Cook's views) — though I still believe that the only change acceptable to Labour would be the single constituency alternative vote.

The proposed special committee on modernising the House of Commons (involving the Leader and Shadow Leader of the Commons) and joint committee of both Houses on a long-term plan for a "democratic and representative second chamber" are both intended to establish as wide support as possible for change before detailed proposals are put forward. In the Commons, this would cover ways of improving the scrutiny of legislation and of European proposals, enhancing the role of select committees, shaking up Prime Minister's Questions and strengthening government accountability (in practice, building on what has happened in the past five years). Achieving even some of these aims would have a vast impact on the workings of Parliament.

However, the report does not touch on the sensitive matter of the treatment of constitutional Bills and whether some of their committee stages should be taken off the floor of the House, to reduce the problem of parliamentary indigestion. Similarly, there is no discussion of the West Lothian question and the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster following devolution. These will all be crucial in the parliamentary debates on the Bills.

The report does, however, bind the Liberal Democrats in to the Labour constitutional programme. For instance, while the Liberal Democrats disagree with Labour's proposals for pre-legislative referendums, and in particular with the second question in Scotland about tax-raising powers, "they would not seek to frustrate or delay the referendum legislation" and both parties "would campaign strongly for a positive outcome". This is likely to be the extent of co-operation in the early stages of a Parliament. Talk of a merger or formal deals is not on the agenda: both parties are too wary of each other. But this week's report is an important stage in creating a new progressive alliance.

PETER RIDDELL

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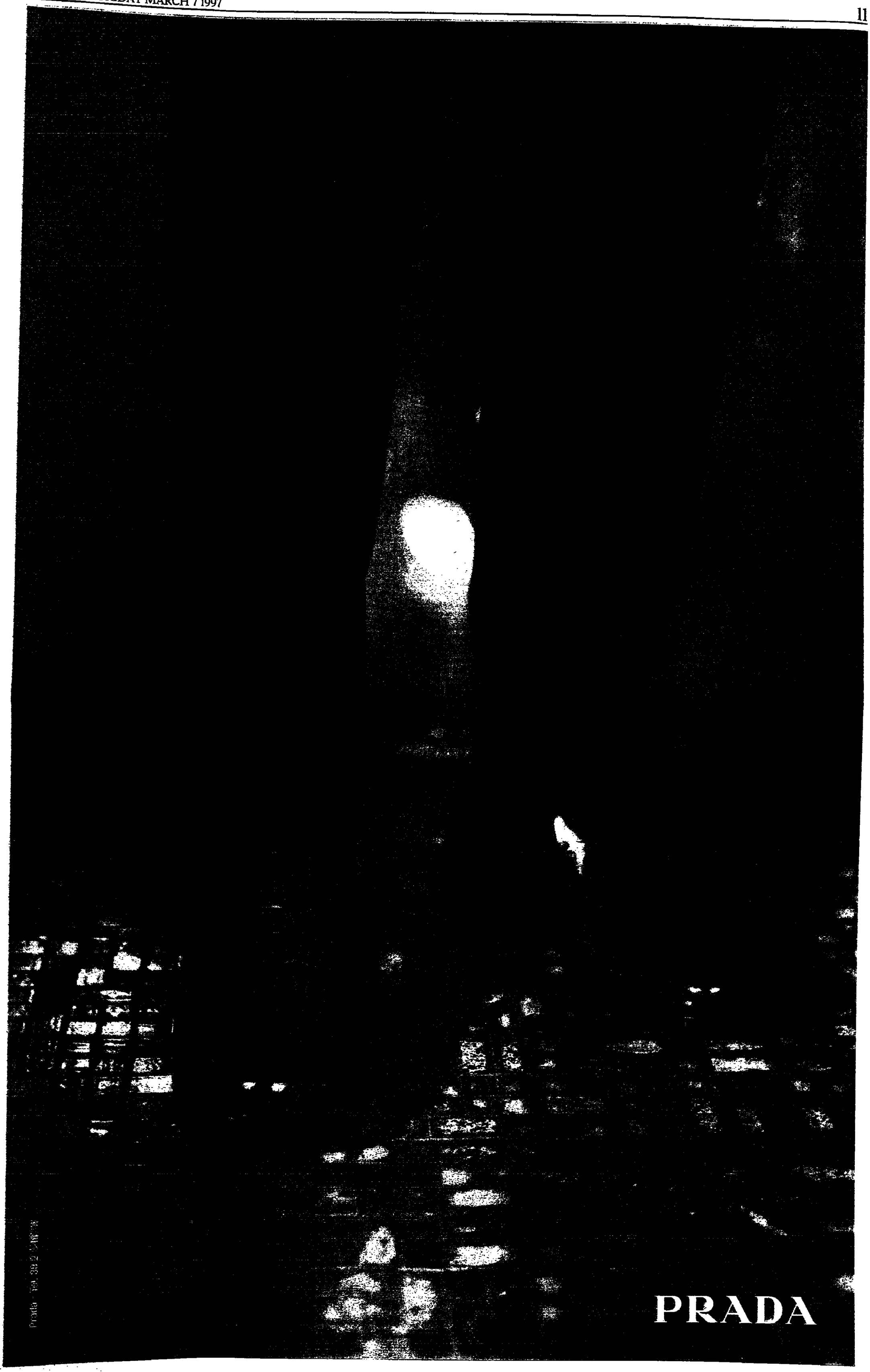
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PRADA

Promises leave Moscow cold

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

ANDREI GUSEV, 58, a Moscow caretaker, has heard many speeches in his time from many leaders and yesterday's performance by President Yeltsin did little to impress him.

"Nothing new" was his verdict. "They all make the same promises, but in the end the ordinary people like me just keep on getting screwed."

Mr Gusev's views were echoed by many others yesterday in Moscow. "He told us last year that pensioners would get their money. He promised to deal with crime, but nothing has changed," said Valentina Davydova, a retired schoolteacher. "Of course, he has been sick, but something should have been done."

"He spoke well," said Vladimir Pilyugin, a businessman. "But we will have to see if there are any results."

Few had taken the trouble to watch the state of the nation address, broadcast live on state television. "What did I need to watch for?" asked Olga Gorbunova, 22. "I know what he said: everything is fine, all problems will be solved, we are building democracy. Maybe I will watch on the news tonight, but then, maybe not."

Those that did see the speech agreed that Mr Yeltsin looked fit and appeared to have recovered all his old vigour. Even the phlegmatic Mr Gusev agreed that he had been impressed by the President's recovery. "We are a tough people, but I must say I was surprised. When he went to hospital last time, I thought that's it. But just look at him."

By all accounts, the President is taking his doctors' advice seriously, although some of them have described him as "a difficult patient", and his decision to make a slow return to public life appears to have paid off.

Yeltsin vows fresh drive to root out corruption

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin served notice yesterday that he was back in control of Russia when he delivered a forceful address pledging to shake up his Cabinet, push through economic reforms and crack down on corruption.

After eight months plagued by illness, the Russian leader appeared finally to have regained his health, when he delivered a 25-minute speech in commanding style to a joint session of parliament.

In a brutally honest assessment of the state of the nation, the Kremlin leader described a country where officials were corrupt, workers were unpaid, the military was crumbling and relations with the West were reaching a crisis point.

"Having built a new political system, we have stuck mid-way," he said in the annual address, broadcast live nationwide. "We have left the old shore but we are floundering in a stream of problems. The stream is carrying us away from the new shore."

He said one of his first moves to rectify the situation would to reshuffle the Government and bring in "competent, vigorous people". It is probable that Anatoli Chubais, the presidential Chief of Staff, will be promoted to a new post in charge of the economy and that Yegor Gaidar, the liberal former Prime Minister, may make a comeback.

"One of the main faults of the Russian authorities at all levels is corruption," the President said. "It provides the spawning ground for most economic crimes. We should not have any untouchable individuals. If the tracks of a crime lead to high office, you must act resolutely and strictly in accordance with law."

He also drew attention to unpaid wages and pensions, issues which he vowed to tackle during last year's presidential election campaign. Similarly, he promised "fundamental decisions" to push through urgently needed reforms in the armed forces, which have been left to collapse in spite of repeated promises to turn the military into a professional force.

One of the most urgent issues on President Yeltsin's agenda is Nato's planned expansion eastwards. Yesterday the Kremlin leader reiterated his opposition to the move and warned the West of the dangers of isolating Russia.

For most Russians, the importance of the speech was more in its delivery than in its contents. Most of the problems raised by President Yeltsin have been left unresolved.

Of more immediate interest was the fact that the Russian leader finally appeared ready to resume his duties, which were effectively suspended after an illness last July, followed by an open heart bypass operation in November and finally an attack of pneumonia in January.

"I saw a tough Yeltsin, exactly the man we adored in 1987," said Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow and a Yeltsin loyalist. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, described the address as "miserable, helpless buffoonery without any real content".



Yeltsin yesterday: put emphasis on efficiency



REUTER

Lech Walesa breaks bread with fellow strikers at the Gdansk shipyard when the Solidarity union was born in the Eighties. The movement shook communism and marked a European turning point

Polish crisis looms as shipyard cradle of Solidarity is closed

BY ROGER BOYES

THE axe fell yesterday on the Gdansk shipyard, birthplace of Poland's Solidarity revolution and site of one of Europe's great historic turning points. Workers — most of them young men who were infants when the 1980s strike at the yard fatally weakened communism in the Soviet bloc — were told that all efforts to save the financially sick enterprise had failed.

"I have to dismiss everyone," said Wieslaw Szaj, the official receiver. "From today we are beginning the process of sacking 3,800 workers." The closure of the yard is set to provoke a political crisis. The decision to declare bankruptcy last summer, and to close down the yard now, was taken by the post-Communist Government.

As far as the workers are concerned, the Government — though calling itself Social Democrat — has inherited the prejudices and principles of its Soviet bloc forefathers. "Communist pigs — hands off the yard" reads the banner strung across the main entrance.

Solidarity, which has remodelled itself from an orthodox trade union into the most potent force in the Centre-Right of Polish politics, will take up the cause of the yard, and unless there is a last-minute rescue it is likely to radicalise the political climate ahead of general elections in the autumn.

> "Walesa returned for a few minutes; to embarrass the Government into awarding him a pension"

The most famous worker in the yard was Lech Walesa — who clambered over the fence to lead the 1980s strikes — and after he was defeated in his attempt to win a second term as Polish President, he promised to return to his job as an electrician. He did return, though only for a few minutes: long enough for a photo opportunity to embarrass the Government into awarding him a presidential pension. It is not clear what role he will play in fighting for the yard. Certainly, there is no great love of him in the workforce. Many believe that he has deserted his former shipyard colleagues.

The Government, which has a 60 per cent stake, says the yard has been bleeding subsidies. It also argued that declaring the yard bankrupt last summer was not an attempt at closure, but a way of making it a more attractive purchase for any foreign investors.

A German shipowner ordered five ships, but the Polish PKO bank refused to grant a $100 million (£62 million) loan to carry out these and other contracts. The yard's debts now exceed $136 million and further credit has been refused.

☐ Seoul: Lech Walesa will lecture as an honorary professor on labour relations at Korea University twice a year from May, school officials said. South Korea was rocked by three weeks of nationwide strikes in December and January, triggered by a new labour law that made mass layoffs easier. More stoppages are threatened. (AP)

Uproar as body of forgotten girl found

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIANS vented their anger against judicial authorities yesterday after the belated discovery of the body of a nine-year-old girl by police investigating child murders.

The remains of Loubna Benaissa were found in a steel trunk buried among car parts at a filling station in the Brussels district of Ixelles, yards from the supermarket where she disappeared in 1992. Patrick Derochette, 33, the garage owner's son and a convicted child molester, had confessed to her murder and was in custody, officials said.

Hundreds of people laid white flowers and candles at the site as the media and politicians gave vent to their outrage over the authorities' failure to take proper action when the girl vanished. "Once again, we are confronted with lamentable judicial behaviour," *Le Soir* said.

Loubna became a household name in the aftermath of the August arrest of Marc Dutroux, the paedophile being held on suspicion of murdering four girls and kidnapping at least two others. The discovery of her remains was announced by Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, whose Government has been rocked by disclosures of police bungling.

A new child-murder team reopened the Loubna investigation last autumn and found her remains after a tip-off.

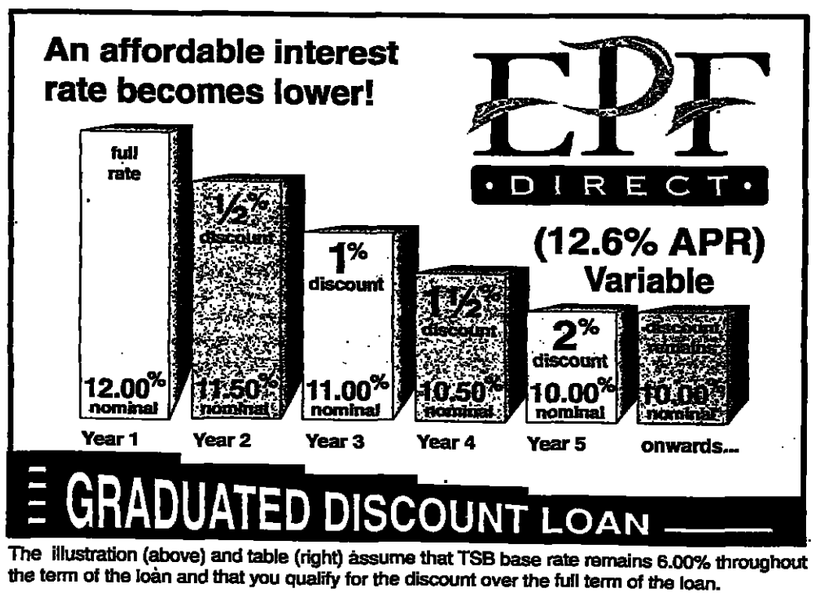


Loubna: remains found buried at garage

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President hosts round-table talks with Opposition to find solution for Albanian crisis

Tirana grants truce to let rebels hand over looted arms

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

THE Albanian Government said yesterday that army operations in the South would be suspended from this morning, and declared a two-day amnesty to enable citizens and rebels to hand back weapons stolen from armouries in the past week.

Whether the measure would have a calming effect on the state of anarchy was unclear. The announcement came after five hours of talks between the Opposition and Sali Berisha, but the Albanian President gave little sign that he would offer any political concessions.

Mr Berisha did not sign the joint statement and its validity remained in doubt. Nevertheless, it did have the apparent support of Tritan Shehu, the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

The round-table meeting, held at the Presidency, was the first real political dialogue since a state of emergency was declared on Sunday. But Albania remains a deeply divided country, with police and Shik secret agents holding the population of the North in fear, and rebels, sometimes supported by defecting army units, consolidating their control over swaths of the South.

President Berisha refused to comment on opposition demands that a temporary "technical" government be formed, which would give opposition parties ministerial posts.

"It's difficult to sum up what he said exactly," Skender Gjinushi, head of the Social Democratic Party, noted. "But in the end the only thing we were agreed upon was that the bloodshed must be stopped."

Paskal Milo, another Social Democrat, said "only seven minutes" of the meeting were devoted to formulating a political solution to the crisis. The talks are scheduled to be reconvened at the weekend; on the agenda will be the critical issue of voting in a new Prime Minister to replace Aleksander Meksi, who was dismissed last Saturday.

American military commanders in Germany are preparing plans to evacuate more than 1,600 Americans living in Albania, a US European command spokesman said yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). In Britain, the Foreign Office advised against visits to Albania for the time being and urged British citizens and their dependants now in Albania to leave if their presence was not essential.

In the lawless South yesterday, rebel groups in stolen tanks careered through the streets, and the death toll rose as a result of accidental shootings and tragic pranks. A tank stolen in Sarande lay in a ditch, a 13-year-old blew himself up and a 25-year-old man was shot while posing for international camera crews. At least 20 people have died in the past week. "It's Mad Max country down there," noted one diplomat.

State radio and independent witnesses reported that rebels *had partly blown up a key* road bridge between Sarande and Gjirokaster, cutting off the army's one significant southern base from the rebel-held belt extending from Sarande and Delvine northwards to Vlore.



Berisha: refused to make concessions

An American diplomat said there was little prospect of the army regaining control of the region, given its lack of firepower and poor discipline. Its conscripts are paid $2 (£1.24) a month and have little incentive to risk their lives.

The Government also announced on state radio that warrants had been issued for the arrest of Edmond Zhupani, the main naval commander, and five other military officers. One of the officers wanted is stationed in Vlore. The announcement seemed to be more bluster than any real threat to the disaffected Albanian military. The Government also said it wanted Italy to extradite the two pilots who defected in an elderly MiG on Wednesday; the two have sought political asylum.

In the capital, Tirana, the reopening of political dialogue did little to restore faith in the Government. The German Embassy was said to have advised its citizens, including aid workers, to leave the country, and Swiss Air reported a rush of bookings.

Diplomats here agree that the coming days will be crucial if the Balkan state is to be rescued from the brink of a civil war. They are worried that factionalism within the Socialist Party, the main opposition bloc, could play into President Berisha's hands.

Opposition leaders said they were pinning their hopes on Western intervention. "We need Europe and the United States to support us," Neritan Ceka, head of the opposition Democratic Alliance, said.

He said the issue of a "technical government" could be raised by the Council of Europe at its meeting with President Berisha today. It is the first of several international delegations to be visiting Tirana in coming days.

CHRIS HARRIS



David Smiley, left, photographed with Billy McLean in Albania during the Second World War, and at his west London home yesterday

British war hero backs 'honest' Berisha

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FEW people have a good word to say for Sali Berisha, the beleaguered Albanian President, but Colonel David Smiley, a friend of many years and a legendary figure in this troubled country, feels he must speak up for him.

"I feel very sad for him. I knew Albania when it was a feudal state, when there were no shops and no restaurants and the only cars belonged to Communist leaders. Now there are shops, restaurants and hotels, and there are too many cars on the road. Sali Berisha has achieved this."

Colonel Smiley, 81 next month, was one of the daring undercover British officers from the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who parachuted into Albania in 1943 to fight the Germans and Italians alongside the Communist partisans, and again in 1944, that time with the nationalists in the north when there was a civil war raging. He is one of the last survivors of Operation Consensus 1 and 2. Two of his SOE colleagues were Julian Amery, the late Tory peer, and Neil "Billy" McLean.

In 1949 he was seconded to MI6 for two years to train and arm Albanian agents as part of a secret operation to liberate the country from the Communists and the Soviet orbit. It failed disastrously, *the undercover mission being* betrayed to the Russians by Kim Philby.

Colonel Smiley's picture — with those of Amery and McLean — was put up on a wall inside the Pyramid building in Tirana under the label "war criminal". Yet he, as a military adviser to the partisans from April to November 1943, had played a key role in sabotaging the Italian occupying forces and the German Alpine division.

Not that Enver Hoxha, the partisan leader later to become Albania's Communist dictator, ever thanked him. He used to claim that the Russians had saved Albania. "But that was rubbish, it was mainly SOE with some help from OSS [the US Office of Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA]," Colonel Smiley said.

More than 50 of Colonel Smiley's wartime colleagues died on Albanian soil. It was President Berisha who helped him to find their graves, and a monument was set up.

Colonel Smiley whose book, *Albanian Assignment*, was seen as such an important record of the war that it was translated into Albanian, said: "Berisha is an honest man and I believe he has done his best for his country. When he became President I was angry with him because I thought he should put on trial all the Communists responsible for torturing and murdering. But he told me he wanted reconciliation, not revenge.

"I feel very sad about what is happening. He has brought so many changes for the good and I think it is unfair that he should be blamed solely for the collapse of the life-savings scheme. But he must try to form a government of national reconciliation."

Colonel Smiley has albums filled with fading photographs from his wartime exploits. His codename was "Grin" and the Albanians he fought alongside were "Pixies". He became legendary for his expertise in blowing up bridges. He points proudly to a wartime photograph of a demolished bridge, and to the replacement bridge in an album from one of his visits to Albania since Mr Berisha became President.

For years Colonel Smiley was not allowed to talk about his MI6 assignment in 1949. He did not discover that Philby, then MI6 liaison officer in Washington, had betrayed the secret mission until many years later.

It was because of his attachment to MI6 and his SOE exploits that it was assumed it was his name that had been chosen by John le Carré for his character George Smiley, the hero of *Smiley's People*. However, Colonel Smiley said that the author had never heard of him, and "admitted that he had taken the name from the register of pupils at Eton. He was Master at Eton when my two sons were pupils".

Reporter dressed as nun beats press ban

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A SPANISH journalist has disguised herself as a nun to file reports from the southern Albanian town of Vlore, at present still in rebel control.

Cristina López Schlichting, a special correspondent with the Madrid daily *ABC*, filed an extensive report from the embattled Adriatic port yesterday. The Albanian Government had banned foreign journalists from Vlore on Monday.

Señora López, 32, a mother of three, hit upon her idea when she met the mother superior of Vlore's Franciscan convent at a hotel in Tirana. The elderly nun was keen to return to her besieged community, but reluctant to travel south alone. Señora López offered to accompany her in exchange for the loan of a spare brown habit.

On their drive to Vlore, alarmed soldiers at checkpoints tried repeatedly to stop them. At the last government checkpost, 30 miles from the rebel-held town, they were detained for several hours before being allowed to proceed. Señora López witnessed soldiers randomly pick out a man from a group of onlookers and thrash him severely. When she tried to intervene, playing the compassionate nun, she was warned to "shut up".

Eventually, they were allowed to proceed, having changed their car — which bore Tirana number plates — for one with plates from Vlore. "They will shoot you on sight with those Tirana plates," a soldier had said. According to Señora López, the soldiers *made a pitiful sight — young*, poorly armed and fed, and ill disciplined.

In Vlore, the Spanish reporter said hatred was expressed everywhere for President Berisha. Yet the mood, although sullen, was strangely conciliatory. Residents told her that a solution could be reached. A housewife said: "There will be peace if people get their money back, especially the poorest ones who have lost everything."

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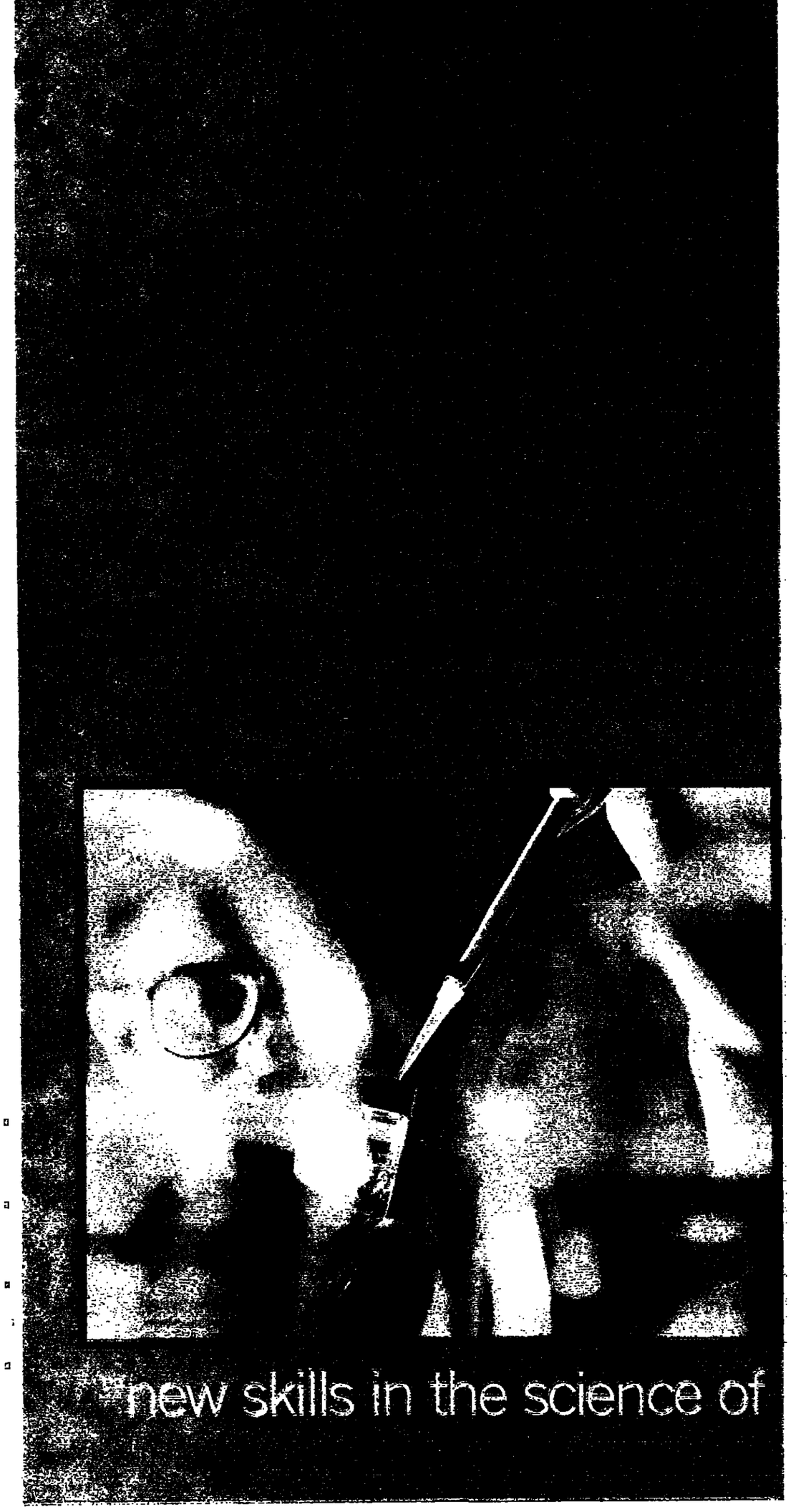
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German unions urge brake on euro as unemployment rises

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE powerful German trade union movement is abandoning its uncritical support for Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU) and will demand a delay in the single currency unless Bonn introduces major job-creation elements in the Maastricht follow-up treaty.

That warning, given yesterday by Dieter Schulte, a trade union chief, marks a fundamental shift in German politics. It came as Germany announced that it was still failing to bring down unemployment. February figures released yesterday showed a rise of 13,600 on January to 4,672,000 — a lower rise than predicted, but nonetheless the highest level of unemployment since the 1930s. The jobless rate was 12.2 per cent — among the worst in Europe. The jobless figure was 401,500 more than in February 1996, the Labour Office said.

The total out of work in western Germany, the country's economic motor, decreased slightly — from 3,265,000 in January to 3,257,000. Unemployment in the former East Germany rose to 1,414,000 — up 21,800 on January.

"The government coalition should not believe that it can buy its entry ticket to Maastricht at the cost of ordinary people," said Herr Schulte, chairman of the German Trade Union Federation. "I am speaking for the majority of voters who will be deciding on the Government's future in 1998." Until now the unions' line has been that monetary union offered more opportunities than risks. "But the trade union federation can no longer accept that the Maastricht criteria for 1999 are fulfilled by fiscal and social measures which operate exclusively at the cost of employees." The support of the unions for the current EMU schedule would depend on "binding commitments" on employment and social issues to be written in to the revised Maastricht treaty.

Economic figures released this week do not suggest that Germany is heading for the kind of miraculous recovery that would turn around the job market. The federal statistics office indicated that the German economy expanded by 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, and the first quarter of this year will also record very sluggish growth, say economists. The only sign of recovering confidence is in export orders, pushed along by the relative weakness of the mark against the dollar. Domestic consumption is still weak and the building sector is in deep trouble.

High unemployment, by pushing Germany further away from the Maastricht targets, inevitably prompts talk of delaying EMU. But it also weakens Germany's bargaining position as it seeks to bar other states from joining the currency union's first wave.

FABRIZIO BENSCH / REUTER



Men wait in line outside an employment office in Berlin. Unemployment rose last month to the highest figure since the 1930s



Tiberi: accused

Chirac ally faces sleaze inquiry

Paris: Jean Tiberi, Mayor of Paris and ally of President Chirac, has been placed under formal legal investigation alongside his wife on suspicion of misusing public funds (Ben Macintyre writes).

M Tiberi, the most senior Gaullist to face a corruption inquiry since M Chirac came to power, said he was innocent and would not resign.

The sleaze investigation is a blow to the ruling Gaullist RPR party, which is reeling from accusations that its coffers were lined with bribes paid in exchange for city building contracts when M Chirac was Mayor and M Tiberi was his deputy in charge of the housing office.

The case against the Tiberis revolves around a brief written in 1994 for a regional council by Xavière Tiberi for which she was allegedly paid Fr200,000 (£25,000).

Protest at border screening

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

BRITAIN protested to the Spanish authorities last night over their harassment of a group of Gibraltar schoolchildren who were denied entry to Spain.

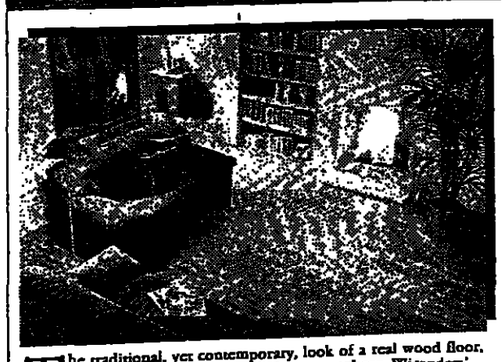
The schoolchildren, aged between nine and 12, were delayed for several hours by Spanish border police, who refused to let them cross into Spain on the ground that their collective passport issued in Gibraltar was "an invalid travel document".

The British Embassy in Madrid said in a statement: "The use of children to pursue political aims is not an acceptable way of conducting business between fellow members of the European Union."

The rough treatment, which happened on Sunday, comes barely a month after Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, promised Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that Spain would "respect the validity of all travel documents issued in Gibraltar". This latest incident at the border appears to be a breach of that undertaking.

A Gibraltar government official deplored the "ill-treatment of our little children". He said: "We allow Spanish schoolchildren into Gibraltar on collective passports. Only a week ago, 90 of them visited the Rock on a single Spanish collective passport."

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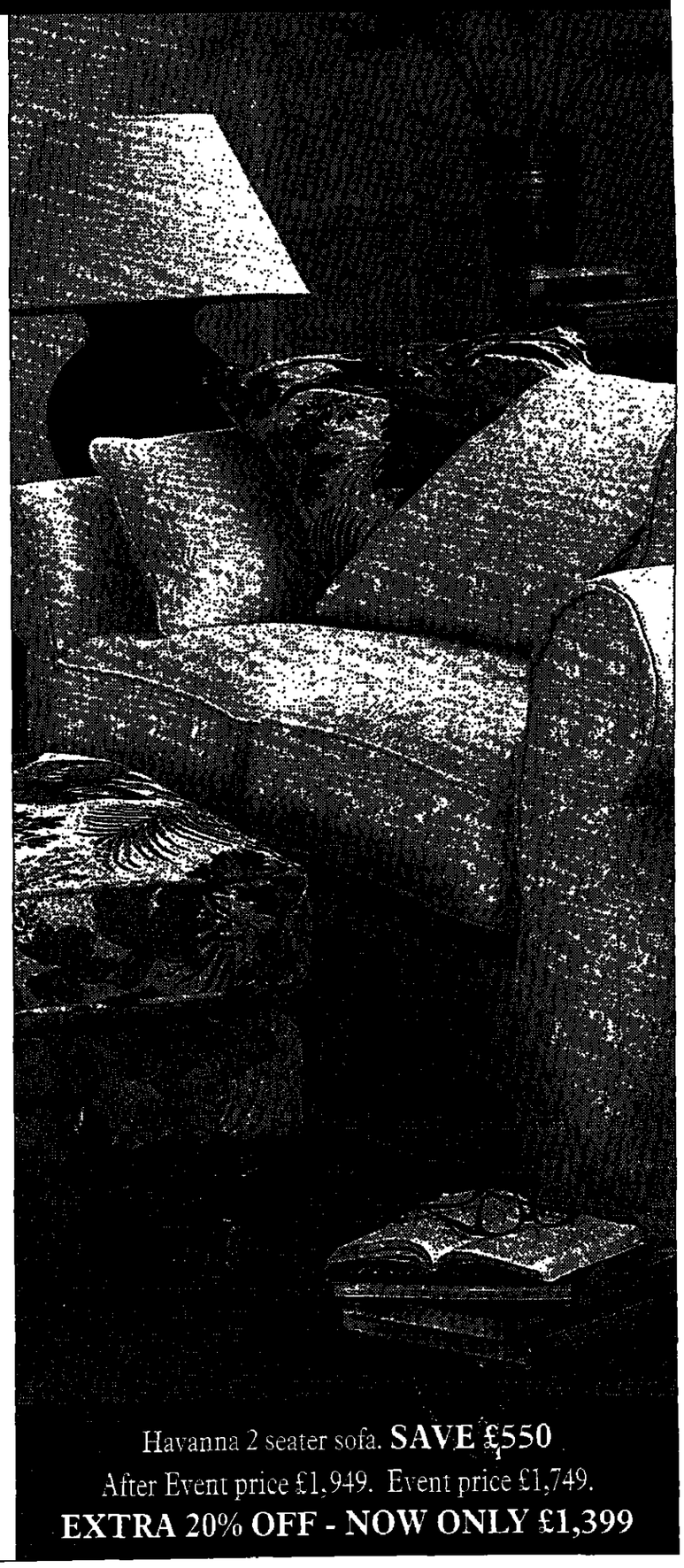
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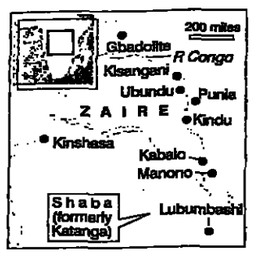
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Hutu militia flees as Zairean town hails rebel victory

FROM SAM KILEY IN PUNIA



STARVING Hutu children, their skin hanging from their backsides like baggy pyjamas, tottered into a stinking barn for a last bowl of porridge before hitting the road on the orders of extremist leaders prepared to march them literally into the ground.

Since east Zaire's rebels overran their refugee camps in South Kivu province, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutu civilians have been wandering in the vast tropical wilderness for four months. They have been herded as human shields by their own army and militia for more than 500 miles.

"We don't know where we are going, nor why any more. Many have died in the forests of disease and hunger," Jean Kanyamukenke, a former agronomy student from southern Rwanda, said.

The 4,027 tired and hungry refugees in the group moved as if in slow motion as they prepared yesterday to leave Punia, about halfway between Kindu and Kisangani in the north. The Hutu militia leaders had ordered them to march on as the rebel force approached the town. From the air thousands of others could be seen heading north in a miserable line along a dirt road towards Kisangani. Zairean officials said they would be stopped from entering the city and settled by the riverside town of Ubundu.

The rebel group, the Alliance of Forces for Liberation Congo-Zaire led by Laurent Kabila, has seized most of Zaire east of the River Congo. Punia, on their route to Kisangani, will fall without a fight.

The local population is pleased that the Hutu militia, responsible for the genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, is leaving. They had complained incessantly about the presence of the militia whom they fear more than the rebels or government soldiers, who have a reputation for looting.

"Get lost," yelled Barthelmy, a teacher in the town, at the only uniformed gendarme left in Punia. "Of course I'm looking forward to the rebels getting here," he said. He suddenly swung around and snapped at a Hutu listening in: "And you can bugger off as well, you spy."

Mr Barthelmy said: "They are nothing but trouble, the Hutu soldiers. We have no problems with the civilians, they need our help. But the soldiers harass us, steal our cows. When the rebels get here, we will welcome them."

Most Zaireans here support the rebel force. As a result the rebels have been able to march unimpeded across the country and into towns.

Their next major rebel target is Kisangani. Judging by the numbers of despondent soldiers trying to get their families onto some of the last commercial flights out of the city, it may not be long before this objective is achieved.

Jan Pronk, the Dutch Development Minister, who visited Kisangani and Punia yesterday, was shaken by the state of the refugees and enraged that they were still being used as human shields. "There must be a ceasefire," Mr Pronk said. "Much more walking and all the refugees will be dead."

☐ **Nairobi:** Kenya is to host a summit on the Zairean conflict on March 19 but Mr Kabila will not be invited, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. Zaire's ailing President Mobutu has been asked to attend the one-day talks with President Mandela of South Africa and five other African heads of state. *(Reuter)*



SINEAD LYNCH/AFP

Peter Berry begins his journey back to Blighty yesterday. He was one of 53 retiring civil servants and their families who took advantage of an old Empire perk to return by sea at the end of an assignment overseas

First wave of expats embarks for home

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN HONG KONG

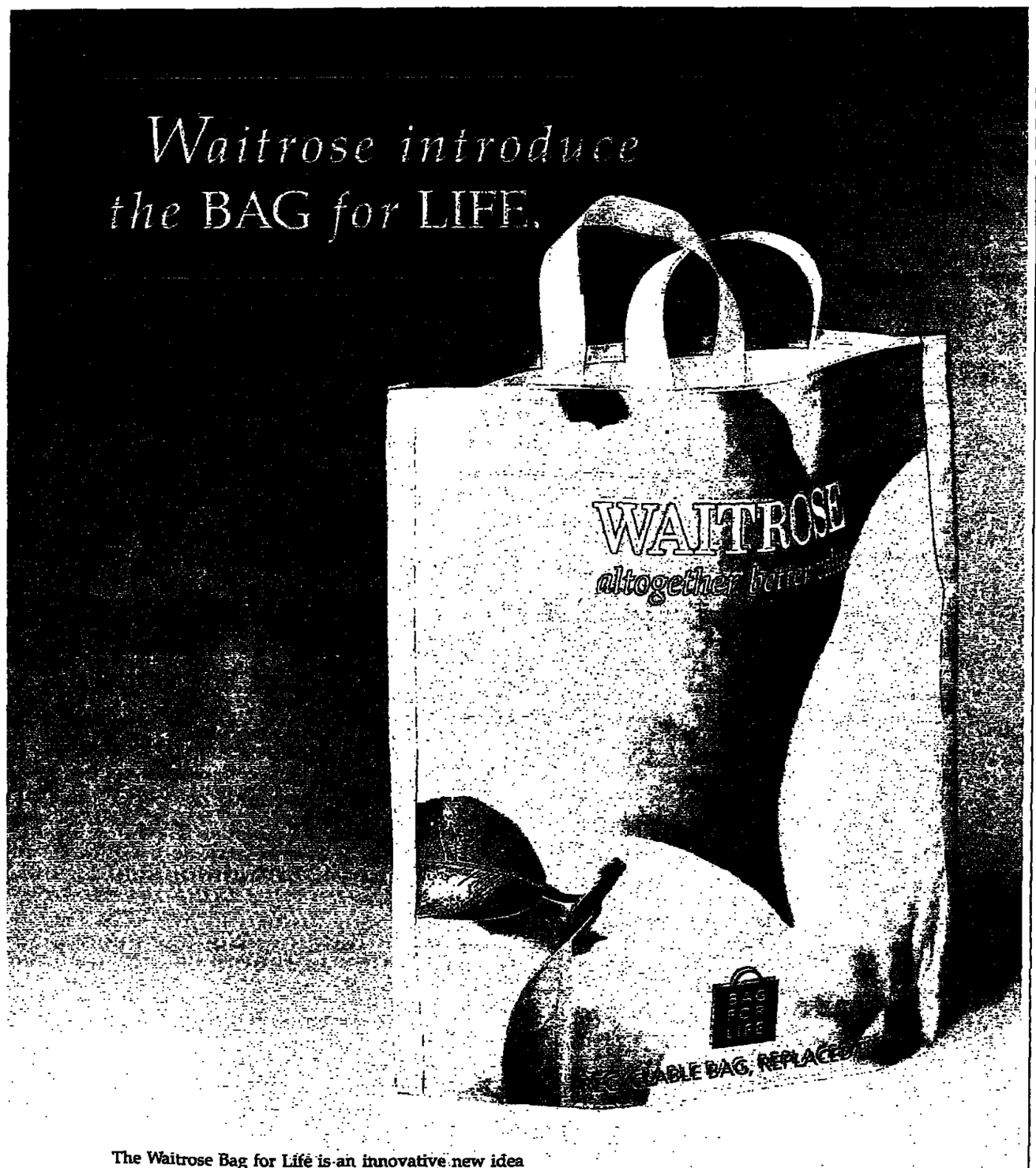
A GROUP of expatriate civil servants and their families set sail for Britain yesterday aboard a luxury cruise ship, leaving Hong Kong before the colony's handover to China in July.

The group of 53 boarded the *Oriana*, enjoying a perk from Empire days under which members of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service could return to Britain by sea when their assignment ended. In a scene to delight the television documentary-makers who fill Hong Kong these days, the 69,000-tonne white giant was nudged by tugs into the centre of the harbour, gleaming in the sun's dying rays and framed by the territory's famous skyline.

***Berthed alongside the Oriana* was the Cunard flagship, the *QE2*, which will pick up a second group of more than 100 retiring civil servants and their families tomorrow.**

To some of those heading home, they were returning to a country that after many years seemed almost an alien place with a chilly climate and violent crime. "I've been here for 31 years, and had a fabulous time," said Len Sayer. "My kids were born here, for them Hong Kong is their home."

Hong Kong has earmarked almost £1 million to send British civil servants back to Blighty this year.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

213 die in Tamil Tiger onslaught

Colombo: Military officials reported yesterday that 213 people were killed as Tamil Tiger guerrillas overran a military base and an airfield in eastern Sri Lanka (Our Foreign Staff write). At least 160 guerrillas and 49 soldiers died and an air force plane was destroyed.

The simultaneous attacks were the heaviest since January 9, when 223 soldiers and 350 guerrillas were killed. Britain is to provide £4 million for relief efforts for up to 200,000 people affected by the civil war.

Bhutto delay

Karachi: A Pakistani court ordered the arrest of Abdullah Shah, a former Sind province Chief Minister, and two police officials as it postponed the trial ofBenazir Bhutto's husband. *(AFP)*

Software arrests

Los Angeles: US authorities say they have cracked a software counterfeiting ring, arresting Chinese nationals and seizing more than £3.7 million in pirated Microsoft programs and $3 million cash. *(AP)*

Guyana mourns

Georgetown: President Jagan of Guyana died of heart problems in hospital in Washington, aged 78. The Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds, was sworn in as his successor. *(AP)* **Obituary, page 23**

Nepal defeat

Kathmandu: King Birendra accepted the resignation of the Nepali Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, after his centre-right coalition lost a parliamentary vote of confidence. *(Reuter)*

Paris hotel sale

Paris: The Sultan of Brunei's family said it had bought the Plaza Athenée luxury hotel in Paris. The British Granada group announced the sale on Monday, at an asking price of £45 million. *(Reuter)*

Abductor's death

Beijing: Han Fudong, 80, who as a young soldier helped to abduct Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist Chinese leader, to force an alliance with the Communist Party to fight the Japanese, has died. *(AP)*

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Egypt set to tighten its controls on militant preachers

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

EGYPT promised yesterday to intensify its crackdown on maverick Islamic clerics and to complete plans to control the country's 55,000 mosques and all Muslim preachers within five years.

The pledge, by Mahmoud Hamdi Zakzouk, the Religious Endowments Minister, was a tightening of the screw on the militant Gamaa al-Islamiya (Islamic group) which took up arms against President Mubarak's moderate Islamic regime in 1992, threatening to turn Egypt into a second Iran. More than 1,000 people have been killed in political violence, but the casualty rate has fallen sharply in the past year and the Gamaa has mostly been driven out of Cairo to parts of Upper Egypt.

With the Government planning to take over all the remaining 30,000 private mosques at the rate of 6,000 a year, Mr Zakzouk said that those responsible for running them had begun applying for licences for preachers under a law passed earlier this year.

The beefed-up attempt to impose Muslim orthodoxy comes after last month's potentially explosive massacre of ten Coptic Christians by Islamic militants in a church in Minya province and allegations by Hassan al-Alfi, the Interior Minister, that Iran is supporting the Gamaa. The Minya massacre, the first sectarian attack of its kind against Egypt's 10 per cent Coptic minority to be made inside a church, was an attempt by Islamic extremists to destabilise the country by fomenting sectarian strife. The last attack of a similar scale was in March 1994 when gunmen shot dead five Christians.

Mr Zakzouk said: "Perhaps one reason which moved us to bring the mosques under ministry control was to put an end to all forms of extremism which use mosques as a base." He made clear that there would be no place there for preachers who uphold unorthodox doctrines or engage in political activity hostile to the Government, although people were free to believe Shia Muslim doctrines.

Diplomats said the clampdown was recognition that despite the recent improvement in the security situation, Egypt is still riddled with social ills that could be exploited by fundamentalists.

☐ **Jerusalem:** Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, called a Cabinet meeting last night to decide the extent of the first of three further military withdrawals from the occupied West Bank, which is due to be completed this weekend.

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China developers gave Clinton aide cash for campaign

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER senior aide to President Clinton was paid more than $400,000 (£248,000) in total by a dozen companies, including the backers of a $2 billion American-Chinese property development in China which received the endorsement of the Clinton Administration.

Webster Hubbell, one of Mr Clinton's closest friends who was forced to resign in 1994 as Associate Attorney-General to face criminal charges stemming from the Whitewater inquiry, accepted payments from companies controlled by the Riady family of Indonesia at about the same time as the Administration gave its backing to the development in China's Fujian province, *The New York Times* said.

Details of the payments have emerged during a whirlwind of charges that the White House broke federal rules on raising election funds and, even more seriously, that it allowed foreign companies and governments to influence the Administration's policy in return for cash contributions. Donations and payments by Chinese companies have come under particular scrutiny, against a background of tension in United States-China relations.



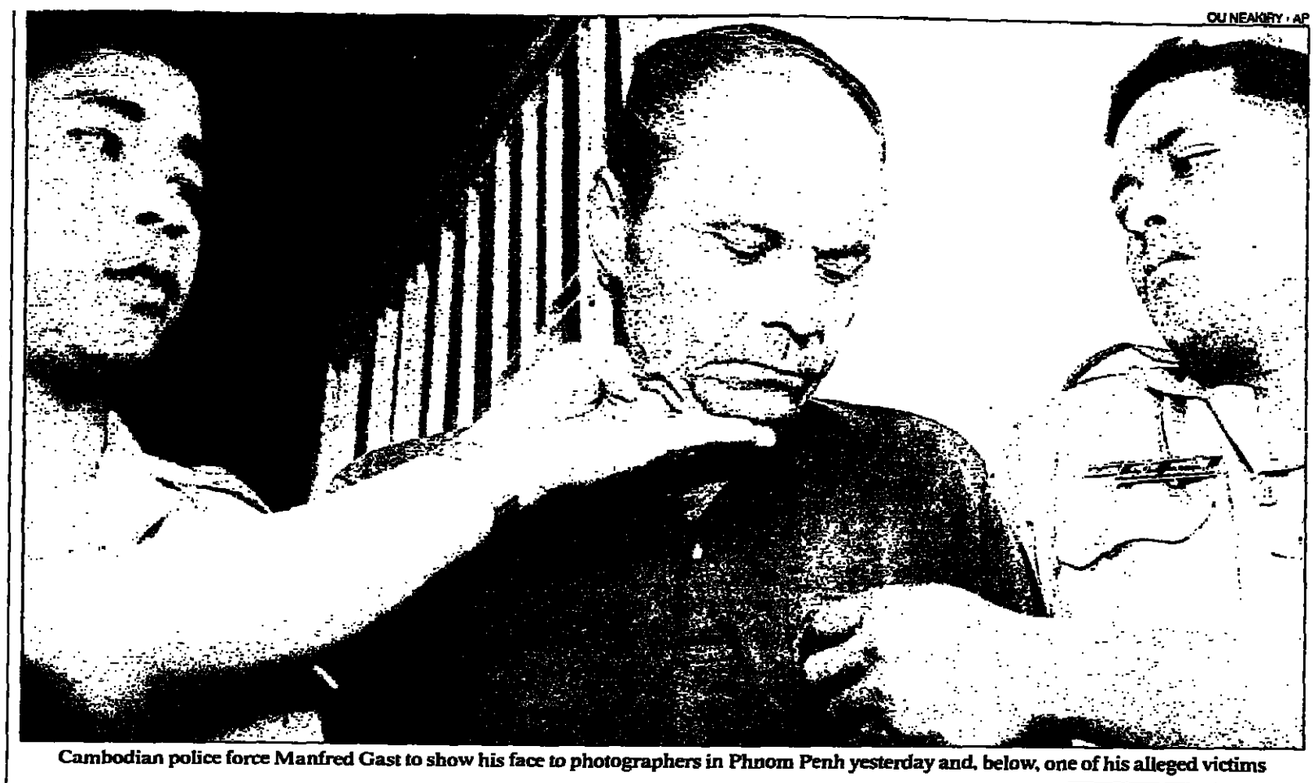
Hubbell: took money from Indonesians

It also emerged yesterday that one of Hillary Clinton's aides accepted a $50,000 cheque inside the White House, in apparent breach of federal rules barring the use of government property to raise campaign funds. The donation came from Johnny Chung, a Democratic fundraiser who visited the White House 49 times, once with six Chinese businessmen, and claimed close ties with the President in business deals abroad.

Revelations about Democratic fundraising techniques are emerging daily, partly because congressional committees have secured access to White House documents. However, the new details about Mr Hubbell and the Riadys have the potential to be particularly embarrassing to President Clinton. They may establish that some of the main figures in the Whitewater investigation into questionable property deals in Arkansas, which dogged Mr Clinton throughout his first term, also have a central role in the present controversy about fundraising.

It was reported months ago that Mr Hubbell was paid $100,000 by companies controlled by the Riady family, for reasons that have not yet come to light. The new details suggest that payments were four times the level previously thought and flowed from a large number of companies.

Some of those companies were guests at White House coffee mornings or stayed as overnight guests in the Lincoln Bedroom. The question of whether these opportunities for meeting the President were implicitly ways of soliciting money is at the heart of the controversy.



OU NEAKRY : AP

Cambodian police force Manfred Gast to show his face to photographers in Phnom Penh yesterday and, below, one of his alleged victims

'Child sex gangster' held in Cambodia

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PHNOM PENH

A CANADIAN national arrested on child prostitution charges is a member of a "well organised, international" paedophile ring, Cambodian police claimed yesterday.

Manfred Horst Albert Gast, 53, who was born in Germany but lives in Alberta, Canada, was arrested in a Phnom Penh guest house after six boys alleged that he had had sex with them, police said. They displayed scores of photographs they said were seized from Mr Gast's room, showing young boys in sexually explicit poses. They said they had found more than 200 pictures.

"We believe that he sells these photographs," said Police General Skadavy M Ly Roun, chief of Cambodia's Interpol department, which made the arrest with local police. "It is a well organised and international ring." He said Mr Gast had large sums of money in a Thai bank, possibly earnings from such deals.

Formal charges against Mr Gast are to be made in Phnom Penh municipal court today. Mr Gast claimed he was being mistreated in police custody but police said he was refusing to eat. Mr Gast could face ten to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Children's rights workers have said Cambodia is becoming a haven for child sex offenders as other countries in the region, such as Thailand and the Philippines, have launched anti-child prostitution campaigns.



Colombia rebuffs Clinton on drugs

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

COLOMBIA has halted crop-dusting flights against drugs in an emphatic rebuke to President Clinton.

The measure was approved by President Samper and his associates, who were said to be insulted by Mr Clinton's decision to classify Colombia for the second year as failing to co-operate fully in the war on drugs.

In another embarrassment for the Americans, news leaked out of a hastily organised secret mission to Mexico City by senior White House officials to try to smooth over recriminations between the two Governments just six weeks before Mr Clinton is due to visit Mexico.

The team sent to Mexico by Mr Clinton included Samuel Berger, national security adviser, and Barry McCaffrey, the anti-drugs chief. Their arrival had not been disclosed until a Mexican radio station blew their cover.

Colombia's swift and unexpected move has left Mr Clinton with a foreign policy dilemma. It means the suspension for an unknown period of a drug eradication programme in which crops producing cocaine and heroin were sprayed from the air. The aircraft were largely paid for by Washington, often with American pilots. Washington had set great store by their success in curbing the flow of cocaine.

Helicopters escorted the flights into areas under the control of left-wing guerrillas. There have been gun battles as those on the ground try to protect the crops.

The main reason for President Clinton's decision to "decertify" Colombia last week was that, by American calculations, the country's cultivation of coca plants had increased by 32 per cent in the past year. Colombia, the world's largest producer of cocaine, has now overtaken Bolivia to become the second largest grower.

The Americans criticised high-level corruption in President Samper's administration and the way imprisoned drug barons continue to run their illegal operations from their comfortable cells.

Earlier, Colombians were angered by American criticism of their Congress, which cleared President Samper of charges that he took campaign contributions of £3.7 million from the Cali cocaine cartel. American officials said the charge was "credible". President Samper denied it.

US critics savage 'Shine' pianist

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DAVID HELFGOTT, the mentally ill Australian pianist whose remarkable story is told in the hit film *Shine*, has received a vicious drubbing from music critics at the start of a US tour.

Mr Helfgott, 49, has had standing ovations from spectators and is mobbed in the street by autograph hunters. The American public loves him and in a matter of days his list of US engagements has risen from three to 18. From the cushioned "elite" of the concert hall press box, however, there came yesterday a long, loud raspberry about his debut US recital.

The Washington Post accused him of artistic incoherence. "A painful and disturbing experience" was its verdict on Mr Helfgott's performance at the Symphony Hall in Boston. *The New York Times* found "little definition in the playing".

Another critic said that the man was not musician enough to deserve the privilege of playing in the Symphony Hall. "He sounds like a well coached child prodigy," grumbled another of what Scott Hicks, the director of *Shine*, called the "self-appointed guardians of the elite".

Boston concertgoers did not mind a hoot. At the end of the show they ran up to the front of the stage and clamoured to touch the pianist's long, lean fingers. Nor did they seem to mind the fact that throughout the concert Mr Helfgott talked to himself, grinned like a cat and twitched (he is almost exactly as he was depicted in *Shine* by the actor Geoffrey Rush).

The critics' attacks probably reflected an irritation that the musical agenda has been set by a film, and a non-American one at that, and that the high temples of culture are being taken over temporarily by *Shine* populism. American classical music critics tend to be pretty mirthless. Given some of the discordant drivel their fraternity has endorsed from the contemporary canon in recent decades, however, it is hard to resist a frisson of satisfaction at seeing their exclusive game spoilt.

Mr Helfgott appears serenely undeterred by the poor notices. "One mustn't be so *seriosa*," he said. "It's all a game. Must be grateful."

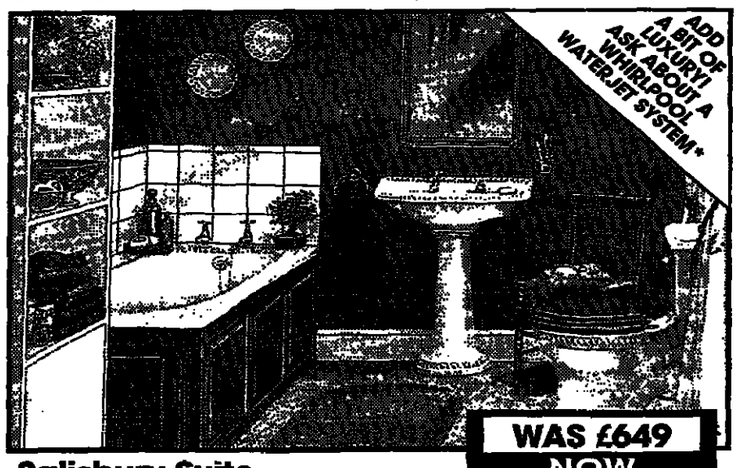
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Claire at 67, still in full bloom

The indestructibly beautiful Claire Bloom on her undying passion for Burton — and her latest venture on Channel 4

There is an old link between Claire Bloom and the novelist Nina Bawden, in the person of young Richard Burton. When Miss Bawden was up at Oxford, the dashing green-eyed Welshman took her out to a decorous tea, and swiftly asked her to spend the weekend with him in London, where he had a key to Emlyn Williams's flat. (She declined.)

Six years later Claire Bloom was on tour with Burton. He was newly married to Sybil, but this did not stop him from embarking on a snatched, ecstatic affair with Claire (her first) that lasted six thrilling years: "Delicious and impossible and forbidden."

Forty years on, Miss Bloom, now 67, and Miss Bawden, 72, met on the set of *Family Money*, the dramatisation of Bawden's novel, which starts on Channel 4 next week starring Bloom. They discussed how amazingly beautiful Burton was in youth, not yet pock-marked, and what an extraordinary, magnetic personality.

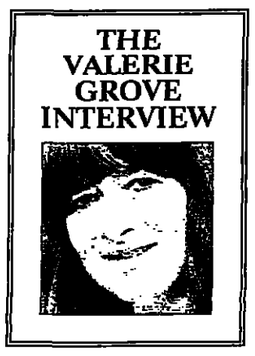
Burton still has this effect on people: Bloom's almost inaudibly soft voice becomes animated when she talks of him. She still has a recording of his reading of Donne. "He was one of those Svengali types who like to teach you and mould you: he knew reams and reams of poetry." When, years later, Burton told her that being married to Liz Taylor was "like waking up to Christmas every day", Bloom felt a murderous urge.

The last time we met, three years ago, she was playing Madam Ranevskaya in snow-covered Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the luminous winter light she was fragilely beautiful and disquietingly reticent, which made me gabble on. Only later did I discover that she was going through hell. I knew that her marriage to Philip Roth had disintegrated, but did not realise quite how painful it was. That's when she embarked on her autobiography, *Leaving A Doll's House*. "I had to have a big project to keep me from thinking about anything."

It is almost too obvious to decode the masochism in her well-written book: damaged childhood (ineffectual father, who abandoned his family); feelings of being an outsider ("the English rose who always felt very Jewish"); an almost too devoted mother. Claire was already a film star at 17, destined to become the tragic heroines she played, submitting to three neurotic husbands. She left Rod Steiger like Nora in *A Doll's House*, in order to become Hillard Elkins's Blanche du Bois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

When she met Philip Roth, she might have known that a man already seething with rage about having been trapped in his previous marriage would soon seethe again "in paroxysms of silent anger". She noted the warning signals. "But of course," she writes, "the situation would be different with me."

They married after 14 years together: she was locked in with a wilful, egocentric bully who refused to have Anna, her daughter by Steiger, in their home. He knew that if she could abandon her daughter for him, there was nothing she would not do — and wrote another of his self-revelatory novels featuring a priapic faithless husband named Philip and a dull, weepy wife named Claire. I am not the first to express incredulity that she failed to see that he would be impossible.



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"Yes..." says Claire, sighing. "But you always think it is going to be different. And there were also very wonderful times. In the main it was an enriching relationship. So it was very confusing. I could never have foreseen the end. He became a different person, somebody I couldn't have lived with for two minutes." At the end, her fax machine spewed out wicked bills from him, demanding repayment for their holidays together, for the hours (at $150 an hour) he spent advising her on scripts.

He became capricious to the point of insanity, calling her back with flowers and messages and then dumping divorce papers on her, accusing her of cruelty and inhumanity.

Astonishingly, even after all these torments, she describes a dream of returning to the Connecticut farmhouse they had shared, and finding everything the same.

"It was the truth. I was full of longing to return to the domestic hearth, with the fire crackling, the life I'd had, which had gone. But that door was closed."

Such an unrealistic neediness may stem, she thinks, from her bizarrely close relationship with her mother. "She was a most remarkable woman. But there is a downside: her support made me terribly overdependent, and it took me many, many years to find myself as an adult female. Perhaps that was the reason I *clung to relationships*, after they should have finished."

Roth bestrides her life, but other men line up in her story: Olivier, Yul Brynner, even Elvis, from whom she fled. We do not discuss "The Unmentionable" second husband, Hillard Elkins, but I said I had just heard Rod Steiger on *Kaleidoscope* saying he would "never forgive" Claire Bloom for her book. She was so taken aback I instantly regretted telling her.

"Anything you write will rub someone up the wrong way," she said. "I know that even from my first, silly, modest little autobiography, 14 years ago, which said nothing about anybody, I still got reproachful letters."

But it is time to leave the past. She is still in the bloom of her prime. Her beauty, which "didn't hurt" when she was being cast by Chaplin in *Gaslight*, remains. She is sure her uncanny likeness to his wife, Oona, got her that part; Chaplin was a lifelong friend and mentor.

In *Family Money* she plays a *widow whose family would like* to get their hands on her Islington house, worth half a million. "I like Fran. She's a rather ordinary woman who makes a kind of life for herself, which I think women will understand. She's very passive at first [especially compared with Margaret Tyzack, who plays her terrifying sister] but she does come to life."

In the opening scene, where Fran is beaten up in the street, we see her leaving the cinema and dining alone in a restaurant. I found this unlikely, but Claire Bloom does it a lot in New York: "I often go for spaghetti and a glass of wine at the pasta place across the street, and I find it comforting to take my book to a coffee-shop full of people."

Does she go alone to movies in New York? "Yes! it's 1997! Good God, I'm not going to wait for a millionaire to take me out. I prefer to go to museums by myself too, I can concentrate better. I'm going to *Lohengrin* by myself tonight. Opera is my one great passion."

In London, she was staying at her daughter's house — Anna, *now an opera singer, was away* in Palermo — and seeing her brother John, a film editor *(Gandhi, First Wives' Club)*, and her friend Gaia Servadio.

When we last met she had just found herself an apartment in New York. It was a momentous juncture ("I had to have somewhere to live, to get back a normal life"), since when she has established a singleton's routine, embracing the health club, Central Park, the Society Library, with its peaceful reading room, "the nearest thing to the London Library", friends and work.

As she approaches the aunts-and-dowagers age — she was only 49 when she played the matriarch Lady Marchmain in *Brideshead Revisited*, "and it would have been bloody stupid to turn that down on narcissistic grounds" — she now does one-woman concoctions *of Shakespeare's Women* and *Women in Love*. She also does a four-hour reading from *Anna Karenina*. (There is a touch of Karenin in Roth: and Claire would certainly have fallen for a Vronsky.)

"People say, 'don't you wish you'd had an easier time?', but what's the point of that? Things happened as they did, and I got a lot from them. You can't say what if ... 'What if' does not exist.

"That's one reason I am astonished to find myself quite alone *and doing all right* — like Fran. As I say to myself: 'Considering everything that's happened, you're doing as well as you can.'" She laughs, and her dark eyes no longer look wistful.

● *Family Money starts on March 16, Channel 4, 9pm.*

CHRIS HARRIS



The prime of Miss Claire Bloom: "I am astonished to find myself quite alone and doing all right"

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Pop groups should not make comebacks, says **Fiona Russell Powell**

Survivors of the lamé army

For the past month, posters have been plastered all over London advertising tonight's comeback gig at the Shepherds Bush Empire of the 1980s pop group, ABC. The lead singer, Martin Fry, is shown with a gold lamé jacket slung over his shoulder: a reference to the days in 1982 when ABC wore similar suits and had a platinum-selling album, *Lexicon Of Love*. Where he got his current lamé suit is a mystery, as he ceremoniously flushed the original down the toilet in a Japanese hotel at the end of the band's world tour. How do I know this? Because Stephen Singleton, the founder member of ABC, told me. He will not be on stage tonight and nor will I, although I, too, was once a member of ABC, masquerading under the name of Eden, while working as a journalist for *The Face*.

In fact Martin Fry is now the only remaining member of ABC, aided by Glenn Gregory of Heaven 17. During the past few years, I and other former ABC members had noticed that Martin seemed to have rewritten the history of the band. The way he tells it, ABC was his idea. Not so. ABC started life as Vice Versa, a Sheffield electronic three-piece *formed by Singleton (sax and* rhythm guitar) and Mark White (guitar).

One day, Stephen and Mark rang a Mancunian student, who had interviewed them for his fanzine, and asked him to step in at the last minute to replace the 16-year-old member who had chickened out of her first gig. I was the chicken, he was Martin Fry. In 1980 they changed the musical direction of the band and the name to ABC, and brought in drummer David Palmer and bassist David Robinson.

The next three years saw ABC on the rise, gaining critical and popular acclaim with their trademark funk/pop, only to blow it all in 1983 with a heavier release that many found hard to understand, *Beauty Stab*.

David Palmer was the first to go. During a gig at Hammersmith Palais, he broke into an impromptu and brilliant 15-minute drum solo. "It was only after he left that we realised it had been his audition for The Yellow Magic Orchestra," said Stephen, who left after rows with Martin over *Beauty Stab*.

I remained friends with everyone, and in the summer of 1984 went round to Martin and Mark's Holland Park flat to hear what they had been working on. It had the promise of another hit album. They said: "We'd like you to join the band." "But I can't play anything," I pointed out. "It doesn't matter. You can pretend. We want you because you've got a great look."

At the time, I was Miss Nightclub Queen, wearing clothes made by my friends Leigh Bowery and John Galliano, with a number one crew cut, and a great collection of wigs and platform shoes. It was a freaky, original image and one that they wanted the new-look ABC to have. An American, David Yarritu, a bold homosexual midget, completed the four-piece.

I joined ABC for several reasons. The money was enticing and I wanted to experience the music industry from the inside. But perhaps the principal expectation I had was one of non-stop fun. And we did have some laughs, at first.

However, the British public did not take kindly to the new image, comparing us to The Addams Family. It was a different story in America though, where the LP did very well. We also had a number one dance record. Things began to go pear-shaped when Martin disappeared. All became clear in September 1985, when we flew to LA to do the US versions of *Top Of The Pops*. Martin arrived at Heathrow looking ghastly. It turned out he had Hodgkin's disease. He could only perform after being pumped full of drugs. The rest of the time he was in bed. Mark, whom I had known since I was 15, now required an appointment before I could see him. David Yarritu had been sacked as he had grown too big for his tiny boots. Everything fizzled out and they decided my services were no longer needed.

I did not hear from Martin again until he rang me about this article. I expressed my opinions about defunct bands reforming. I find it rather sad as it flies in the face of our youthful ideals. "I am *not* a sad man," Martin declared emphatically.

So why is he going on the road after all this time (14 years since he played live, six since the last LP)? "Because I'm passionate about it, I believe in these songs." I've heard the new album, *Skyscraping*, and my immediate reaction was: time warp. It's as if the past ten years haven't happened.

I shall be down at the front tonight but probably not singing along. I joked to Martin that I'll wear my gold lamé suit. "Fi, it takes balls to wear one of those. The lamé army. We're survivors."

MARTIN BEDDALL





Top: Fiona Russell Powell
Above: ABC started life in Sheffield as Vice Versa

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The McAlpine memoirs: Day Five — An awful job, school and his opinion of two colleagues

'I hated my time on the Arts Council'


PETER NICHOLLS

"Appointing me to the Arts Council was, said Norman St John-Stevas, like appointing an atheist to the Bench of Bishops. He was right, of course"

Confessions of THATCHER'S BAGMAN

ARTS AND THE LOTTERY

For a period I was on the Arts Council and I have never disliked anything so much. Norman St John-Stevas, now Lord St John of Fawsley, was leant on by Margaret Thatcher and forced to appoint me. It was, he said, like appointing an atheist to the Bench of Bishops. He was right, of course, as I have always held the view that the whole of that organisation should be closed permanently. It seems to me a most expensive way of giving away money. I have always advocated that the great national companies and galleries be given their grants direct from the Treasury and that they should be given pretty much whatever they need, for you either want to have great national companies and galleries, or you do not. Keeping them perpetually short of money is achieving neither a real economy, nor the point of having these institutions in the first place.

As for the avant-garde arts, I would simply give the cash, if it must be given, to local councils. They are just as capable of distributing it as the members of the Arts Council, for the backing of artistic talent is a lottery. To the funds that are distributed thus could be added the money saved by abolishing the Arts Council.

Industry should be encouraged to help the arts in the regions where it operates, just as industries help politics and charity in those regions. It is good business sense to do this and needs no subsidies. As for individuals, there should be no tax incentive for them to buy art, as is the system in America, for one person's tax incentive is another person's tax increase. People should buy art because they like it, much as they go to football matches because they like football.

I do not approve of the National Lottery. It is shaming that the arts in Britain can only be supported by the proceeds of gambling. The lottery is destructive of small businesses, destructive of charities and, in effect, just another form of indirect taxation. I do not understand why Mr Major's Government, which wants to privatise any state organisation that comes into its sights and then lay its hands on the cash that it can realise from selling these organisations, should set up the National Lottery, which is likely to become one of the largest nationalised industries that has been seen in years. The whole idea is not only daft and dubious, but it will lead Britain's people straight back to a dependence on the handouts of the nanny state, this time with the nanny heavily disguised as the National Lottery. Its funds, however, will be controlled, albeit at second hand, by ministers and the taxpayer will still pay in the end.

I hated my time on the Arts Council, an organisation that struck me as having little to do with the arts. The meetings were tedious, the chairman, Kenneth Robinson, a former Labour Minister of Health, was pedestrian. I found the staff both arrogant and idle. I was chairman at meetings of the subcommittee of theatrical touring, and the two officials sitting either side of me used to pass notes to each other behind my back and then giggle girlishly, which I suppose was only to be expected from one of them, who was a girl. I ignored their rudeness for several meetings but then I decided to put a stop to it. I moved my chair back from the table. They did the same, and continued with their notes. I moved again, and so it went on. Children in kindergarten would have known better how to conduct themselves. There was something terribly childish about these officials, in their grand Piccadilly premises, tossing sweets to artists. They spoke of artists as "clients" and of their work as "product".

It was never satisfactorily explained to me why the touring committee should spend money on a tour of *Oklahoma*, for if one show did not need a subsidy it was that. At the same time as they enthused about Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, the officials wanted to halt the touring of the Glyndebourne opera. I could not stop the former folly, but I did put a stop to the latter, and Glyndebourne continued to tour.

● *Extract from* Once A Jolly Bagman *by Alistair McAlpine (©Alistair McAlpine, 1997), published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on March 13, at £20. Times readers can buy* Once A Jolly Bagman *for just £16 (a saving of £4) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459*

JEFFREY ARCHER

NORMAN TEBBIT bore the cross of Archer with considerable fortitude. I am not such a kindly spirit, and hoped that Archer would soon turn his attention elsewhere than Central Office, although sadly there was no hope of his promotion to a junior minister...

In 1986, help came one morning at breakfast in the Palace Hotel in Bournemouth, where the party conference was being held. At another table was David Montgomery, the Editor of the *News of the World*, with an elegant young woman. She introduced herself as Grania Forbes, the new political editor of the *News of the World*. She had, she said, an embarrassing story about Jeffrey Archer. It was alleged, and subsequently proven to be groundless, that Archer had been consorting with prostitutes. We were fairly surprised at this tale. I was sorry for Archer, although it did not turn out so badly for him. As Margaret Thatcher pointed out, Archer, while he often got the party and himself into awkward scrapes, always got out of them. On this occasion he was awarded the highest libel damages ever at that time.

After Archer's resignation, Norman Tebbit and myself were able to get on with the business of winning the next election, without reading the *Evening Standard* each day in terror of finding yet another Archer gaffe uttered in some remote part of the British Isles.

NORMAN LAMONT

IT IS strange how men, and perhaps more so their wives, make a point of saying how difficult Margaret Thatcher was when in power. I never found this, although I was not accustomed to working for people. She can also be remarkably tolerant of failure. The only scandal that, to my knowledge, she took any interest in was that of Norman Lamont, a junior minister in charge of tourism, who had taken to calling on the vivacious and extremely attractive widow Olga Polizzi. He was doing just this when a former boyfriend of Olga's arrived to try to effect a reconciliation. Richard Connolly, a large but elegant Irishman, was furious to find Lamont in her house. Their row ended in a brawl and trying desperately to escape, using his red dispatch box as protection, Lamont received a blow to the eye. He explained his swollen face by saying he had walked into a filing cabinet. The press, however, was told another story. The minister had been seen hanging around Bayswater Road, shouting abuse at Connolly, who was apparently giving as good as he was getting.

Margaret Thatcher was intrigued by this story and asked me for the truth. She laughed and laughed. "The whole thing is quite Gilbertian," she remarked. When asked does Margaret Thatcher have a sense of humour, I always reply in the affirmative.

When ministers grumbled that Margaret Thatcher was tiresome and difficult, I used to compare her to a great diva, difficult off stage, but pure magic when she came to grips with an aria.

'My dyslexia left me doubly blessed'

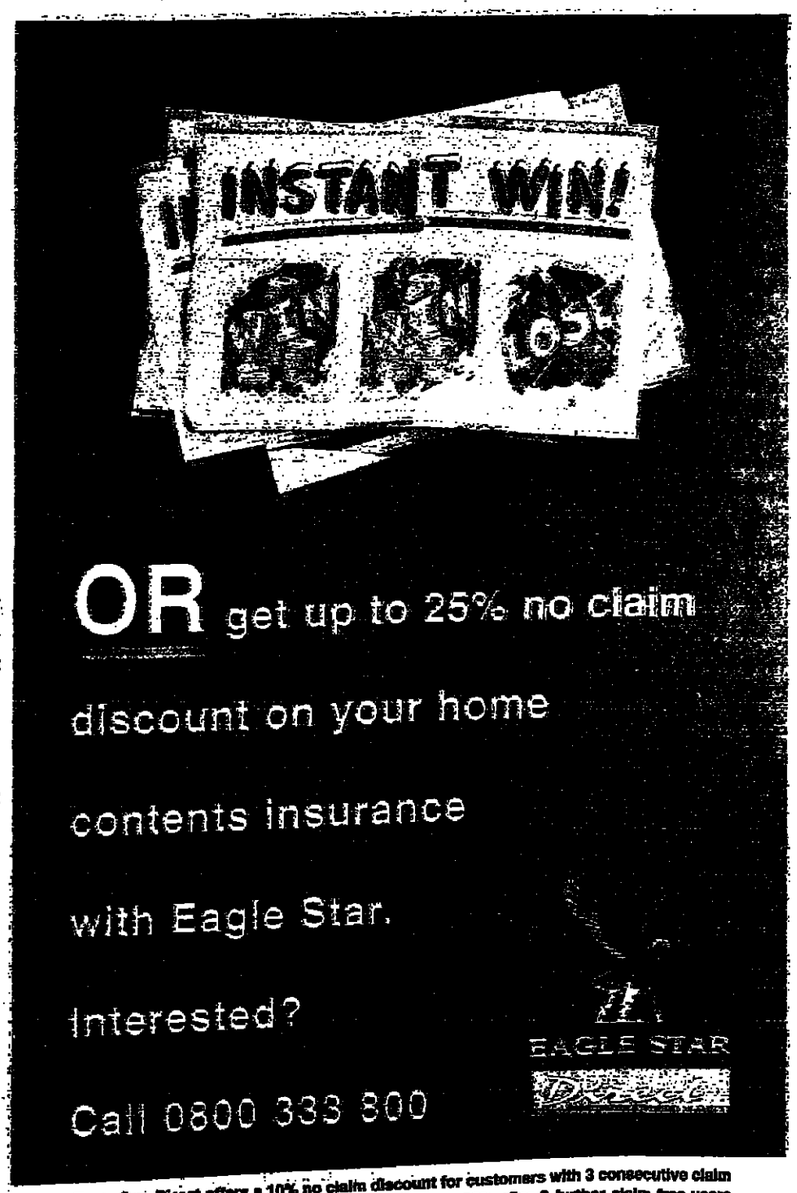
SCHOOLDAYS

MY EDUCATION at Stowe was, in fact, a disaster. I left, I think, with three O levels; it may have been only two. In the event, this failure has served me well as I am able to criticise John Major's total lack of intellect with impunity. John Major is given to attacking those who criticise him, and who have achieved honours at Oxford or Cambridge, with the accusation that they patronise. I suffer no such disadvantage as I was on building sites and drinking in pubs while Major was still at school, trying to pass any sort of exam. I have always believed that there is no need for a formal education so long as you have the wit to realise that you must acquire an education as you go through life.

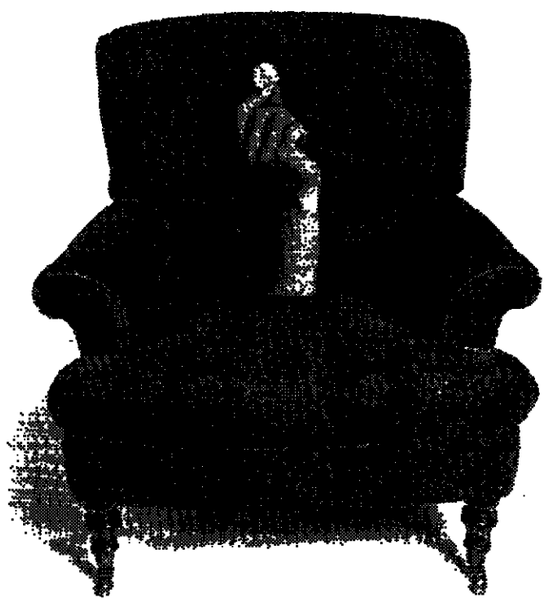
At Stowe I had wondered whether I might become an architect. Such a profession fell within the orbit of family acceptability, while to suggest that I became a writer or a painter, or even an art dealer, was out of the question. Not that I wanted to be any of these things, for it was firmly fixed in my mind that I should be a civil engineering contractor. Those who taught me were amazed that my father, whom they regarded as an intelligent man, could not realise that he had a son who, to put it succinctly, was "thick". "Your son," these teachers told my father, "is not clever enough to become an architect. He will not pass the necessary exams." They were right in that I would not have passed those exams. They were, however, wrong about which exams I would need to pass. I do not blame them, for they sent me off into the world an innocent with no preconceived educational ideas and the world that they sent me into was a vast college where I set about identifying teachers, preying on their generosity both with their time and their wisdom.


Alistair McAlpine aged 3

I have always been lucky, but one piece of luck that I did not discover until 20 or so years after I left Stowe is that I am dyslexic. My dyslexia has left me doubly blessed, for what I lacked in ability to read and spell, I made up for with an active imagination. As for reading, I did not read before I was 11, but like a child kept back from a feast, I tucked in with a wild enthusiasm when I had the chance. I read and read. My hatred of sport allowed me the time and I read whenever I should have been playing games. I read when I should have been doing my Latin prep.



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Your state pension is safe with me

Tony Blair is not persuaded by Peter Lilley's privatisation plan

There is no doubt that the Government's pension proposals are bold. For some commentators that is enough. And in one sense, by opening up the debate, they give whoever forms the next government the chance to conduct the debate more sensibly. But the question is: are the proposals right; and are they thought through?

Most people find the detail of pensions so hard that they give up on it. But the detail here is crucial, and in essence the Conservative scheme is simple. It is to pay now and hope to save later.

Ministers want to create a fund now that will build up over time and so avoid the need for a later generation of pensioners to be paid a state pension. That fund will come in part from taxpayers' money and in part from removing tax relief on contributions to private pensions. Whether that is right or not manifestly depends on whether the balance is fair between what taxpayers are to pay now and what a future generation will gain: and also, of course, on the cost and viability of the government's guarantee if anything should go wrong.

This requires an immense amount of detailed work. It is not clear it has anywhere near been carried out. But let me try to be constructive. There is an ageing population, and unless we plan for that it could create a crisis both for tomorrow's elderly and their children and grandchildren.

We also recognise the value of secure pension schemes based on investment. Our policies will be underpinned by the need to encourage savings. And we agree that many people would rightly like to see part of their pensions invested in secure schemes in which they have a clear stake. But how does the privatisation of all state pensions measure up to the challenge of providing adequate, secure, retirement incomes in the future?

There will be a huge upfront cost to be met by the taxpayer. At its height, £7 billion a year — £150 billion cumulatively by 2040. If Labour had launched such a proposal, we would have been hounded until we said where the money was to come from.

Many of today's pensioners will be surprised that the Government wants to pay £150 billion to privatise the pension system while offering nothing to those in poverty today. We know that the demographic changes will really begin to bite between 2020 and 2040, but in those 20 years it seems that the Government's priority is to be to spend £110 billion privatising the state pension system. The question is, do the claimed benefits justify the certain costs and increased insecurity?

The first claim is that pensions will be better. The fear must be that for reasons of market failure or changes in government policy, "Basic Pension Plus" would produce no more than people would have received from the basic state pension. And if investment returns are poor, the taxpayer will have to pay a second time to underwrite the guarantee.

We are told that the great prize is that in 2040, people on average earnings could, if things go well, retire on £175 a week. But this is only marginally more than their counterparts today, and as a proportion of average income it will be much less. The biggest challenge is to provide pensions for those on low and modest incomes. But the Government has not told us what sort of pensions they can expect, and who will pick up the bill.

Peter Lilley says abolishing Serps is affordable, but in doing so the Government would deny people choice in their pension arrangements and remove the benchmark against which individuals can judge whether personal provision is best for them.

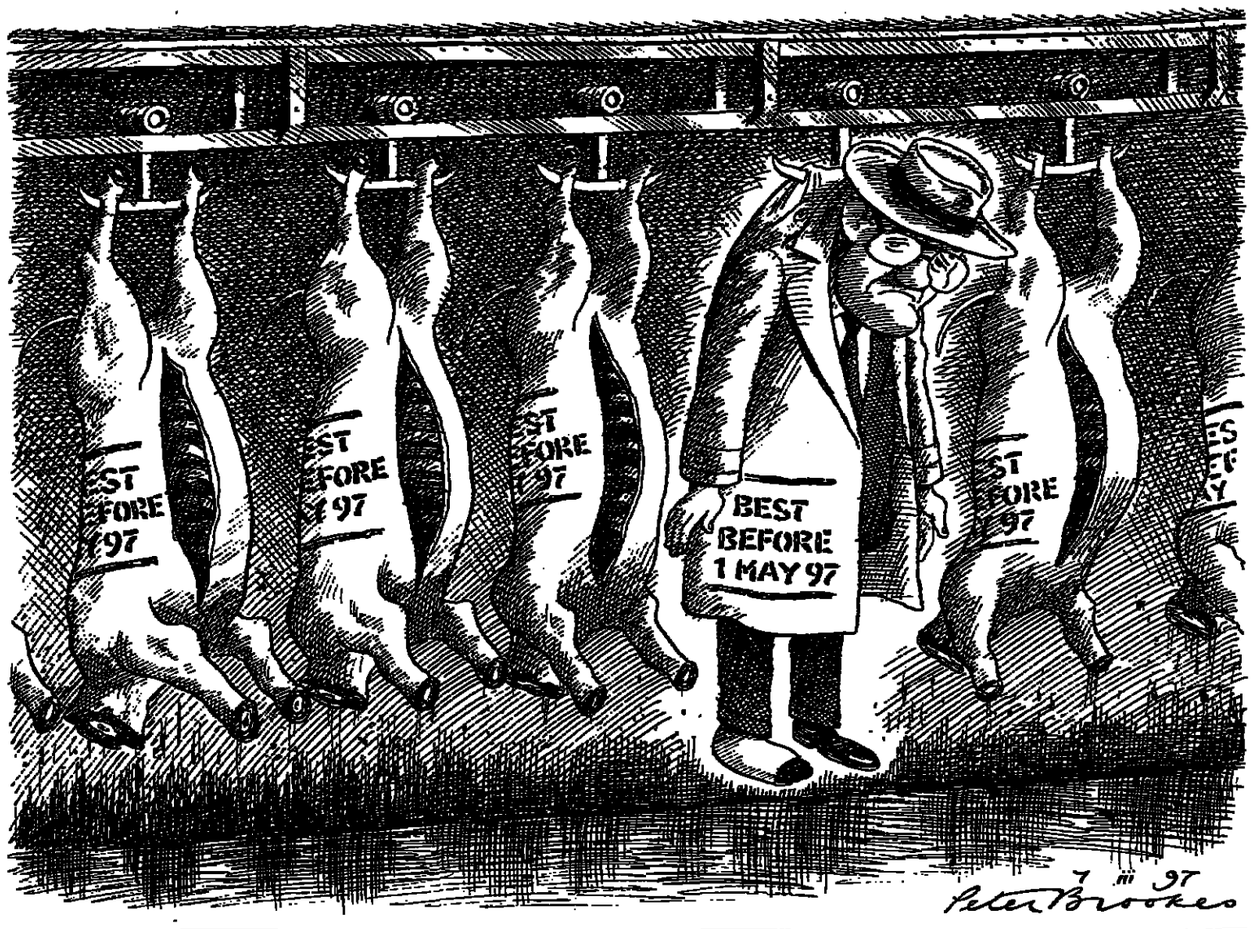
And have the regulatory problems of private provision been solved? I do not believe that the mis-selling and high costs that so many have suffered in the past ten years are or were inevitable. They came about because the Government got its partnership with the private sector wrong. We will get it right.

Labour is determined to find the right balance between state and private provision, and a fair balance between the needs of today's pensioners and those of tomorrow. The State should not promise more than the working population can afford, but it should not and need not abandon all responsibility. We will retain the basic state pension as the foundation on which people can plan for their retirement. No overwhelming case has yet been made for the abolition of Serps, and so, because we believe in choice, we will retain it for those who wish to remain within it.

> We will keep Serps and the basic state pension

Unlike the Tories, we want to address the problems faced by many people today who would like to be able to join an approved, value-for-money, flexible funded pension scheme. Every possible penny of their savings should be working for their retirement, not eaten up in high charges. They should not be unfairly penalised for changing jobs, being out of work or having children. The scheme should be run in their interests. We will encourage partnerships between the financial service industries, employers' organisations and others to offer these new stakeholder pension schemes. We have consulted widely on our proposals and will continue to do so in government.

The provision of adequate pensions is one of the most critical and difficult challenges confronting all industrialised countries. Policy must be sustainable for the long term: people cannot afford to have their plans thrown into chaos by unpredictable swings in policy. We should not be afraid to look at any idea, whatever its source, for the right solution. But policies that start from ideology — whether the belief that the State should do everything or that it should do nothing — are unlikely to produce the best outcome.



Heroes of transition

What do Henry VII, Gorbachev and Neil Kinnock have in common?

Sausage prices twice as high, / Where's the vodka for us to buy? / All we do is sit at home / Watching Gorby drone and drone. This Russian ditty, loosely translated, is quoted by Doder and Branson in their book *Gorbachev*. They sum him up: Mikhail Gorbachev presided over "a transitional period between authoritarianism and democracy".

What a bleak phrase! What an epitaph — if that is all he gets — for the man who, more than any, arranged for the Soviet Union a revolution almost as earth-shattering as the one that created it. That achievement has not found its rightful place: in the middle of the mantelpiece of modern Russian history.

Or not for the Russians, anyway. A prophet without honour in his own country, Gorbachev is described by those of his countrymen I have heard in terms more of irritation than respect. Acknowledgement, where given, is grudging. His is not a name to be conjured with in the popular politics of the age that has succeeded him. The man who ended Soviet totalitarianism, arranged for free elections, a free press, freedom of worship, new legislatures and a multi-party system: the man who introduced a pluralistic economy and opened the Soviet Union to the world outside; the man who almost single-handedly ended the Cold War and the arms race; who invented glasnost and perestroika . . . the man with whom Margaret Thatcher could do business — is consigned by his own and the succeeding generation to a drab ante-room near the entrance to a new world.

This is not because the new world has proved uncongenial for Russians — though for many it has. Gorbachev was disregarded while hopes for the future were still high. Why? Because he was part of the cold half-light before the dawn: clammy, transient, insubstantial. Those who hanker for a return to the enfolding dark would go back to the era before him; those who push forward into the glare just want to leave him behind.

Is this not so often the fate of the men and women who serve as bridges between eras in our history? Resented by the era from which they form a bridge and discounted by that in which they establish the bridgehead, they are seen by the old guard as heresy and by the avant garde as embarrassment. Yet they led the way. They showed courage while courage was still needed. They looked into the unknown. With hindsight their vision seems incomplete, over-cautious. The first forays into new thinking usually do. But what vision it was at the time!

For Henry VII, "vision" would be the wrong word; he had foresight. He is the most underrated of the Henries. Shakespeare tackles the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth but omits the Seventh Henry, who laid the administrative and fiscal foundations for the glories of the Elizabethan age in which Shakespeare wrote. Learning young to think for himself (his mother was 14 when he was born), he ended the Wars of the Roses by his marriage to Elizabeth; concluded a peace with France and formed an alliance with Spain by marrying his son to Catherine of Aragon. He married his daughter to James IV of Scotland, and settled that war too. Perhaps William Hague should marry John Major's daughter, Elizabeth of Huntingdon.

Matthew Parris

Above all, Henry was that rather unfashionable thing, an administrator. He governed in a hands-on way described by Francis Bacon, as "a nearness, but yet with a kind of justice". You could say he helped invent the English State, with its particular regard for fiscal probity and the rule of law. With the Star Chamber he sorted out a chaotic administration of justice. "His times," says Bacon, "for good Commonwealth's laws did excel." They were "the pre-eminent virtue and merit of this King". He sponsored explorers like John Cabot, to boost trade — his constant preoccupation. With the stability he brought, commerce flourished.

Henry was a hoarder, fabulously successful in raising taxes. He left England at peace, and the Exchequer (and the Crown) in better shape than any before him and many since. He placed the State on a sound footing. He was therefore considered boring.

Described as "a tired and anxious-looking man, with small blue eyes and bad teeth", Henry was famously short on charisma; but there is a deeper reason why his name lacks lustre. Transitional figures such as Gorbachev and Henry address a need which succeeding ages view as glaring. This (we therefore suppose) required no great foresight. But our standpoint is the very terrain they have made safe for us. They constructed the compass. They made the obvious obvious. To be dismissed as having done no more than the obvious can be a backhanded compliment of the highest order.

Richard Nixon has suffered a similar fate. Assisted by Willy Brandt (another key neglected figure of transition), Nixon was the father of the East-West detente in which Mikhail Gorbachev flourished. He recognised China. He visited Beijing. He pulled American troops out of the Vietnam War and the quasi-imperialist attitudes that accompanied it. Succeeding Goldwater as presidential candidate, he rescued the Republican Party from itself. Launched with the rhetoric of a cold-warrior, his presidency proved a disappointment to the hardliners whose support he had courted; yet he could never be acceptable to liberal America. The resulting rather unfocused image, of a political fixer without bearings, was probably critical in sinking him when Watergate came; yet comparable scandals have failed to sink Presidents better regarded by their age. Nixon bridged two traditions in American politics, disappointing both.

Edward Heath should sympathise. The first modern Tory Prime Minister, he took British Conservatism to the very doorstep of "Thatcherism". Beginning his career in the whips' office, he helped to ease out the party's ageing leader, Churchill. A carpenter's son, he promoted a grocer's daughter, part of a transformation of his party from an old boys' network into a meritocracy. He took Britain, and British Conservatism, into Europe. He took a first brave swipe at trade unionism. Yet (says his biographer, John Campbell) "Heath's career appeared to end in more complete isolation, obloquy and embarrassment than any other in modern times".

As with Adolfo Suárez, in Spain, the succeeding age remembers only that he who ushered it in, loaded with the baggage of what had gone before, finally stumbled. Suárez ought to be a 20th-century hero. He came up through the ranks of the totalitarian politics of General Franco, but secretly impressed the King. Seen as a reactionary nonentity, his appointment by Juan Carlos as Prime Minister in 1976 was greeted in *El Pais* with "¡Que error! ¡Que imenso error!" Without democratic legitimacy, Suárez had to run the Government which would introduce democracy, dismantling the very system that had produced him. This he accomplished with skill, nerve, generosity and astonishing decisiveness. His Government legalised the Socialists and the trade unions. He won Spain's first election, a year later. "Rather to its surprise," says John Hooper in *The New Spaniards*, Spain found itself a decentralised nation of home-ruled regions.

But Suárez lacked the skills of a party leader, and, in the party system he had helped create, faltered. He was replaced, later ennobled, and is now less remembered than his successful Socialist successor, Felipe González. But González, and modern Spain, owe everything to Suárez. Just over the frontier in Portugal, another European nation owes much to — but hardly remembers — the man who achieved the incredible leap from Third World dictatorship to European democracy: Mario Soares, a hero in my transitionalists' hall of fame.

Neil Kinnock deserves a place there too. We gasp at the achievements of Tony Blair, who came rather late to courage. We salute the memory of John Smith, who proved timid but was redeemed by death. But at the record of the man who kicked over the Militant tables and wrenched his party away from the past, we only snigger. Tony Blair is not the originator of new Labour; he is the product of it. Mr Kinnock was seen by the socialist companions of his youth as selling out on socialism; and among Labour's rootless young newcomers it is not fashionable to acknowledge the bravery of those who were brave when to be brave you did have to be brave. Mr Kinnock's reputation is therefore lost in a limbo between old Labour and new. But it was he who ushered in the new.

Mr Kinnock looks happy in his new job. Suárez is a duke, Heath a curmudgeon. Nixon never recovered. Soares is hardly remembered and Henry VII we have all but forgotten. To Henry, then, and fellow-transitionals in every institution, large and small, let us raise our glasses to the tired and anxious little men with small blue eyes and bad teeth.

Philip Howard



■ Not quite the new Machiavelli

It is a pretty diary, Lord McAlpine. But you must not call it Machiavelli. Your fiction, *The Servant*, was far less plausible than your bitchy, witty memoirs that we are serialising in *The Times*. And they are so much more fun than the maudlin self-pity of Ian Greer, who still cannot recognise that he was a cause of the sleaze disease, not its victim. Your *Servant* was a salute to *The Prince* by that other loose cannon of a courtier, Niccolò Machiavelli.

But there the similarity between you ends. Out of his surname we have coined an epithet for a rascal, and out of his Christian name a synonym for the Devil. *Hudibras*: "Nick Machiavel had ne'er a trick, / Though he gives name to our Old Nick." In fact, this is folk etymology and false. Old Nick was around as a nickname for man's oldest enemy long before Machiavel schemed in Renaissance Florence and became a bogey to frighten babies of English xenophobes. But your surname has become a synonym for big concrete, and your Christian name is a name for dentists. Machiavel was a poor boy, son of a bankrupt, who was driven to educate himself very learnedly from books. You were born with a silver cement-mixer in your mouth; and your education was of the sort that can only be expected from Stowe.

Machiavelli was a serious player in the turbulent politics of his time, as ambassador, statesman and top sherpa to pave the way to summits for popes, emperors and kings. He invented military conscription in order to give Florence its own militia, and he is the father of political science. While your political talents lay in persuading rich climbers to take out their wallets and shake them into the clandestine bucket of Conservative Party funds. He was the sarcastic, thin-lipped ideologue, driven by his schemes to put the world, and especially Florence, to rights. You are the jovial Champagne Charlie, and never a proper Thatcherite. In retrospect you are certainly rude about the real Thatcherites. He was small, thin and bitter. You are small, rotund and jolly.

Machiavelli never found anybody to live up to his ideal Prince. He was consistently let down, first by Cesare Borgia; then by Piero Soderini, the gonfalonier (Prime Minister) of Florence, then by the Magnificent Lorenzo de' Medici. You were not in the least interested in politics. But you are clearly in love with your Principessa, your Mother/Mistress/Goddess substitute, who was the first person to give you a proper job, at the ripe age of 32. Your brown-nosed accounts of her feeding and stroking you are sweet, though in the saccharine *Hello!* mode.

Machiavelli was the proto-Thatcherite: "As a prince must be able to act just like a beast, he should learn from the fox and the lion. Because the lion does not defend himself against traps, and the fox does not defend himself against wolves. So one has to be a fox in order to recognise traps, and a lion to frighten off wolves." You left the politics to your Princess and enjoyed the buzz at the centre of things. Desperate times call for desperate measures. Machiavelli laid down the extreme Thatcherite insistence that while voters are bound by conventional morals, a ruler may use any means necessary to maintain power, no matter how unscrupulous.

Contemporaries said that you both made things up and got things wrong. But your anecdotes are more entertaining, because we know the victims. "The only part about the recession that was short and shallow was its cause: Norman Lamont." And who, apart from the victims, will not relish your Borgia stiletto in the back of former chums? Geoffrey Howe's monstrous ego thinking that John Major's arrival at the Foreign Office was meant to be a great help to him. Ted Heath spitefully misleading his adviser into expecting the Sir he had waited all his life for. John Major hauled in to shake party money out of some shady Greek millionaire. Jeffrey Archer, for the sake of Britain, must never be given a job of any political consequence. Now, you are anxious to offer yourself to Your Magnificence with some token of your devotion to Her. Your little book may not have the ideological force of Old Nick's. But if your Princess has the sense of humour you surprisingly allege that she has, she will be laughing her head off. With the cruel laughter of Medici Florence.

Cat flap

THERE is an eerie howl emanating from the back alleys of Whitehall, as Humphrey the Downing Street cat prepares for life without the trappings of power. Under the Tories, he is cosseted and cared for. Labour's big enchiladas, however, are not cat-lovers. Cherie Blair has been telling friends she finds cats unhygienic.

At the moment, Humphrey has the run of Downing Street. He comes in and out of the back door of No 10 at will, then jumps over to No 11 where he is welcomed by Gillian Clarke, the Chancellor's wife, with a bowl of catfood. Mrs Clarke even wears a cat-decorated pinny to make Humph feel at home.


Where next for Humphrey?

Gordon Brown, not a pinafore man so far as we know, would be far too busy with his Hayek and Friedman textbooks to bother about Kit-e-Kat. The Blairs, with three children already, do not need any more hungry mouths.

One option is for Humphrey to go with the Clarkes or Majors. Neither family, however, has yet signed the adoption papers.

The only ones glad to see him go may be the birds around Downing Street. The Prime Minister himself intervened when Humphrey started looking at them with the sort of drool that Sir Edward Heath reserves for a suet pudding.

● *No Cartier at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Despite having bagged a gold medal in three successive years, the company has been refused the plot it requested. "Our garden is designed to fit a rectangle, not a square or an oval," says a man at the jewellers. "At Cartier, we are perfectionists."*

DIARY

Yas man

YASSIR ARAFAT, in New York this week, has let slip a detail about his relationship with the late Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, of whom he was so bitterly critical after the 1978 Camp David accord.

Arafat, in the course of a relaxed Manhattan conversation with Janet Wallach, co-author of an Arafat biography, told her: "I'll tell you a real secret, one I have never told anyone before. I met Sadat in 1950 and was his official witness when he married, not for the first time, but the second."

Yesterday's *New York Times* reported that Mrs Wallach replied: "What do you mean by official witness?" Arafat told her: "In this country you call it best man."

Wheels off

ELECTION TIME has heightened the political sensitivities of Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who is to open Richard Branson's new West Coast main line on Monday. All was in order for a glittering event until the Sir George spotted the name of the train he was supposed to be blessing: *Red Renaissance*. "I think the irony would not have been lost on the voters," says one close to Sir George. A discreet phone call and Branson's lot agreed to find a less contentious title: *Mission Impossible*.



"Stop it, Eric. The Queen can't see you"

Raw nerve

THERE is no stopping Kristen McMenamy, the beanpole Canadian model. After being turned down by Versace for this season's show, because she "wasn't couture enough", Miss McMenamy drove to his hotel and stripped.

Striking a pose, in only high-heels and stringy lingerie, she sashayed into the Versace salon, posed and asked him: "Am I haute couture or what?" Signor Versace booked her.

Putting on

ABANDONING her populist roots, Mel B, Spice Girl, turned up in the Palm Room of the Ritz in Piccadilly on Wednesday. Just as the assorted duchesses and walkers were gathering up their shih-tzus after tea, in came Mel B wearing a loud 1960s trouser-suit of geometrical design, clasping the hand of a diminutive redhead.

Ignoring autograph hunters, she paraded to plonk herself in the laps of various startled Fink-Nottle types. Flirting with one centre-parted man she asked him what he had done that day, then cooed: "Poor, poor you, having to work."


McMenamy: take that

P·H·S

BUGS IN THE SYSTEM

A new E. coli incident: another case for institutional change

After yet another policy error, the Ministry of Agriculture has exhausted any remaining excuses. As far as consumers are concerned, the initials MAFF have come to mean More Awful Food Failings. The thoroughly inept performance of Douglas Hogg should not, however, be taken as the prime source of recent problems. The conduct of his department itself must be addressed. The failure to publicise the Hygiene Action Team's disturbing report into the practices of Britain's abattoirs was incompatible with a proper concern for public health.

None of the key issues was addressed by the Prime Minister or Mr Hogg in their statements yesterday. Neither man could provide a satisfactory response as to why a report that took 12 months to produce, involved site visits to every abattoir in the country and which generated such devastating conclusions, was not read by ministers. That would have been inexcusable in any circumstance. That it was still the case even after the announcement on BSE is astounding. Mr Hogg sought credit for the creation of the Meat Hygiene Service over Labour opposition. If its output was not deemed important enough to place on ministers' desks it is not clear why he bothered.

Despite this inattention, officials could have acted in place of their political masters; then matters would have been mitigated. Instead, a 54-page report, short and snappy by Whitehall standards, was rendered "more concise" and its author asked to recast it in a more positive spirit. It would ultimately merit only a single reference on one page of the Meat Hygiene Service annual report that was placed in the library of the House of Commons. Mr Hogg seemed to think that represented an adequate level of consultation. Not many others will agree.

Even this sanitised version was not made publicly available. Instead the circulation was limited to certain industry insiders for fear of additional adverse publicity after the BSE announcement. Obviously the affected abattoirs needed to be informed of their defects to *improve their future functioning*. But the possible consequences of past misconduct demanded a much wider audience. The impression left is that, once again, the protection of its industry was the ministry's chief aim.

If the 81 recommendations outlined by the Hygiene Advice Team had actually been implemented, that would have represented some recompense. Mr Hogg, however, could offer no such guarantee nor set out on what basis the various suggestions had or had not been accepted. The public has only the pledge of ministers that satisfactory action has been taken. There is little basis on which to have much faith in that.

No reform or reassurance from the Ministry of Agriculture can now pass muster. It cannot be made sufficiently distant from the producer interests that it is intended to regulate. A separate and independent agency, broadly modelled on the American Food and Drug Administration, reporting directly to the Department of Health and Parliament, is the sole device that might now *restore confidence. It alone can attract and* then deploy specialist officials of due standing. In the United States the FDA has critics who claim that it enforces its mandate with an excess of vigour. After the events of the past year an overzealous approach here would be very welcome.

LANDSLIDE DANGERS

Labour must beware bold prophecy

The polls point to a Labour victory at the next election. The vast majority of voters expects Labour to win. Even John Major at last alludes to the prospect of power changing hands. But when Labour politicians speak of their fondest hopes they are asking for trouble. Robin Cook let slip his expectations of a Labour "landslide" at a semi-private dinner on Wednesday night and the wrath of his leader descended upon him. "We take nothing for granted," Tony Blair said yesterday.

The Labour leader knows that all complacency is the enemy of victory. But public expectations of a Labour landslide risk disaster for the Opposition and bring good news for the Tories. The prospect of a massive Labour victory scares voters who fear a resulting licence to lurch to the Left. It encourages low turnout of Labour supporters. And it increases the Liberal Democrat vote at the expense of Labour as people seek a counterbalance to an overmighty government. Most of all, though, the British like to punish triumphalism and to reward the underdog. Labour's biggest mistake in the last general election was to hold a rally in Sheffield at which Neil Kinnock behaved as if victory was in the bag.

For this reason, a Labour landslide is unlikely. It would also be psephologically unprecedented. Already Labour needs a swing bigger than the party has achieved since the War merely to govern with a majority. To gain a *landslide — a majority of* more than 100 — would entail a change in the climate of opinion as dramatic as that which swept Attlee into power in 1945.

Would a large majority be as dangerous, however, as many fear? In the past, it would have emboldened a Labour government to be more left-wing. Oddly, the opposite may be the case this time round. Mr Blair's instincts are to the right of his party. His main constraint in, for example, reforming the welfare state would be opposition from his own side. Since the new intake of Labour MPs will be predominately Blairite, a large parliamentary majority would allow him to pass such legislation even if some of his older members rebelled.

The changes that have been introduced to the party in the past few years also make a lurch to the Left unlikely. The pressures on Labour MPs are quite different from those in the 1970s and 1980s. Then they had to spend much of their time looking over their shoulders at their activists. The threat of deselection by the intimidating cabals who ran their constituencies forced many to be more left-wing than they would otherwise have wished. Now, deselection is in the hands of every member in a constituency, not just a narrow band of activists and shop stewards. The members themselves are much more moderate; nearly half have joined the party since Mr Blair became leader.

A majority of 50 or so ought to allow Mr Blair to govern comfortably for the full five years, even after deaths and by-election defeats. It would also take the sting out of the West Lothian Question. For Labour would have a majority in England as well as in the United Kingdom. Tory MPs would not be able to complain that Labour was using its Scottish MPs to force through English legislation, while English MPs had no influence on Scottish laws.

A landslide majority, however, does not always lead to good government. Party management becomes more difficult as many backbenchers are left without government or parliamentary jobs. Prime ministers with huge majorities are liable to overinterpret their mandate. Margaret Thatcher did so after 1987, when she pressed too far with her "flagship" policy, the poll tax.

Francis Pym warned of the undesirability of landslides before the 1983 election. His declared preference was for a majority of between 50 and 100. Many who hope for a moderate but responsive Labour government will agree. Much smaller than 50 and a handful of leftwingers could sabotage Mr Blair's plans. Much larger than 100 and the arrogance of power could go to his head.

ANIMALS NOT VEGETABLES

All zoos must match the standards of the best

Animal welfare and the environment provoke strong political response among young voters. The transport of livestock, the threat to endangered species and the use of animals for experimentation are of passionate concern to activists who, a generation ago, would have marched and courted arrest in protest against nuclear weapons or Vietnam. Labour's warning yesterday that it would introduce tougher licensing laws for zoos, forcing the closure of those that do not meet the higher standards, is not only a welcome recognition of new thinking about their role and organisation; it is a smart vote-catching pledge to engage the attention of a new generation.

Labour is promulgating a new standard for zoos and wildlife parks that should make the cramped, claustrophobic and malodorous cages of the Victorian age a thing of the past. It does not want simply to give more space to captive creatures, however, or to allow animals to roam more freely in imitations of their habitat; zoos in future would be required to commit themselves to modern standards on welfare, education, science and conservation. A Captive Animal Welfare Council would be set up, similar to the existing Farm Animal Welfare Council, to draft and enforce high standards.

Such proposals have been welcomed by most larger zoos that are already engaged in redefining their *raisons d'être*. The proposals have the backing of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland, whose members include some of the biggest and best British zoos: in London, Chester, Bristol and Edinburgh. There are, however, some 300 zoos throughout the country and several still exemplify the commercial formula of exhibiting animals as "attractions", keeping them in poor conditions or next door to funfairs and theme parks. The worst would have to close.

All this makes sound ethical sense. London Zoo, which has been at the forefront of the debate on the conservationist mission of zoos since its own near-bankruptcy and closure, is about to reopen the famous Mappin Terraces, remodelled and redesigned to reflect the new standards demanded by animal welfare. Closed 12 years ago, they will form a single exhibit area that will be mainly devoted to sloth bears, a threatened species.

If the battle is nearly won in Britain, this is far from the case in much of Europe. Moscow Zoo, once a great institution, has become a slum, in urgent need of fresh funds. Around the Mediterranean, where attitudes to animal welfare are cavalier, there are shameful exhibits. A proposed European Union directive has been watered down to a recommendation, because of its political sensitivities; but it should be powerfully enjoined.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour plans for the constitution, tax and the unions

From Lord Marsh

Sir, In the considerable discussion of the Labour Party's plans for reform of the House of Lords there is an ominous silence on the possible future of the non-party crossbench peers.

With 312 members (more than the Labour and Liberal Democrat peers *combined) and the complete absence* of party allegiance we constitute the second largest group in the House and enjoy total immunity from the threats and blandishments of the party whips. That this is inconvenient for the party managers is understandable since, lacking both the desire and the party organisation to arrive at collective decisions, we can only listen to the arguments and vote on the merits as we see them. While this would be impractical in the Commons, in a second chamber concerned primarily with scrutiny and revision a minority of genuine independents must be of value.

Would it not be sad, and possibly irresponsible, if this unique element in our parliamentary system was allowed to disappear without public discussion?

I remain, etc,
RICHARD MARSH,
House of Lords.
March 4.

From Councillor Sir Ronald Watson

Sir, Sir Jeremy Beecham, the Labour chairman-designate of the new Local Government Association, states that "If I were Tony Blair and I wanted a shift in the proportion of money coming from local taxation I would move early: let the councils take the flak" (report, February 28). This will come as no surprise to those of us who have seen the Labour Party operate at local level in town halls up and down the country.

Labour Party members in local government are now desperately frustrated people. They solemnly but reluctantly adhere to their party's national line and are undoubtedly biding their time until they believe they will be able to exert real influence. Meanwhile, the Labour Party has been very coy about announcing its plans for anything: in local government terms the only commitment that has been made has been a phased release of the substantial amounts of capital held by councils in their housing accounts in order to fund a programme of new council-house building.

As local authorities will thus be denied the immediate benefits of the interest that accrues on these accounts the result will be an inflation across the country and rises in council tax.

The public should have no doubt that the Labour Party in local government is like a pressure cooker. It will not be long before the members explode, scattering socialism over their communities.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD WATSON
(Dukes Ward Representative, Conservative),
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council,
Town Hall, Southport, Lancashire.
March 4.

From Mr Geoffrey Hinton

Sir, The Shadow Chancellor's reassurances over Labour's taxation policy make no mention of rate-capping.

I well remember the unexpected doubling of my domestic rate by the Labour-dominated Oxford City Council both in 1987 and 1989, a draconian move which brought hardship to some householders, especially the elderly.

The current crisis in local authority financing is obviously impacting on the schools and social services. If Mr Brown and his colleagues promise, as they do, to reverse this process of decline without raising income tax or VAT levels the ratepayer will obviously have to foot the bill.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HINTON,
1 Northmoor Place, Oxford.
March 3.

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress

Sir, You reported (Business, March 3) the opposition of the Director-General of the Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD) to the Labour Party's plans for a legal framework for union representation and recognition.

The Director-General states in his introduction to a research paper examining the two periods of statutory union recognition in the 1970s, commissioned by the IPD from the London School of Economics, that "Trade unionism is withering on the vine". Yet there are 7.3 million union members in the UK — still a large number by any standards — and 84 of the FT top 100 companies recognise trade unions.

He also claims that many companies have adopted alternative means of relating to their employees when all the evidence (for example the Government Workplace Industrial Relations Survey) suggests that there are simply no other methods of involving employees in the vast majority of non-union firms.

All current opinion research shows that unions are more popular than ever before, that there is strong support for a right to representation and union recognition where a majority of employees want it and that many working people would join a union if they were more confident they would not be penalised by their employer for so doing. It is disappointing that the IPD should take such an ill-balanced and frankly prejudiced view — incidentally, one not borne out by the LSE research paper itself.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MONKS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
March 3.

From Mr Leslie Stanley

Sir, My first encounter with unemployment was during the first Attlee Government. The "once and for all" tax on capital imposed by Stafford Cripps in 1948 meant that employers were unable to buy new equipment or repair existing assets. There was no expansion of business.

Can Blair guarantee that such conditions will not obtain after a "once and for all" windfall tax?

Yours faithfully,
L. STANLEY,
47 Parsonsfield Road,
Banstead, Surrey.
March 2.

Claim by fans for 'football trauma'

From Mr Bartholomew O'Toole

Sir, Whatever agony Leicester City supporters may have suffered following referee Mike Reed's decision to award Chelsea a penalty kick in the dying minutes of extra time in the FA Cup tie on February 26, in issuing proceedings against the FA claiming compensation for "football trauma", (reports, March 4, 6) they are surely throwing good money after bad.

The Court of Appeal, in *Smoldon v Whitworth and Another* (Law Report, December 18, 1996; see also Law Reports, March 26 and April 20, 1996), confirmed that a rugby football referee could not be properly held liable for errors of judgment, oversight or lapses of which any referee might be guilty in a fast-moving and vigorous game calling for split-second judgments and decisions. The threshold of liability, it was said, was a high one which would not easily be crossed. It was accepted that the referee had a duty to take reasonable care to enforce the rules of rugby so as to safeguard players' safety, but there was no suggestion that liability might be extended to the shock and distress experienced by supporters disappointed by an erroneous decision.

If the courts were to allow such claims by spectators it would open the door to a plethora of claims by players (and all others involved in sport) against referees — a concept expressly rejected and described by the Court of Appeal as "deplorable".

Similarly, a claim for lost profits for failure to proceed further in the FA Cup competition by a team against which a penalty kick had been erroneously awarded, would be doomed.

Yours faithfully,
B. V. O'TOOLE
(Referee, Amateur Football Alliance, since 1993),
Mitre Court Chambers, Temple, EC4.
March 6.

Sport letters, page 41

Attlees and Tories

From Margaret, Countess Attlee

Sir, May I comment on your report today that my stepson, the 3rd Earl Attlee, is to join the Conservative Party.

To my knowledge my late husband, the 2nd Earl, never took the Labour whip in the House of Lords. Nor did he "help to found the SDP". When he succeeded to the title in 1967 he took leave of absence from his duties in the House and it was not until 1981, after the Limehouse declaration, that he decided to join what he described to me as "at last a party that I could believe in".

After the demise of the SDP, and within days before his death in July 1991, he had been in contact with the Tory whips in the House of Lords, expressing his desire to cross the floor and join them. At the time the Conservative Government had already been written off by the polls.

I find myself delighted that my stepson, too, has committed himself by pledging his allegiance to the Tories now, in their darkest hour, rather than wait for the outcome of the election.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET ATTLEE,
42 Wildcroft Manor,
Putney Heath, SW15.
March 6.

Vanunu plea

From Mr Leslie Waddington

Sir, The history of modern intellectual Judaism is associated with tolerance and respect for the individual. The State of Israel, in its initial kidnapping and continual imprisonment of Mr Mordechai Vanunu in the barbaric conditions described by Mr Andrew Neil (letter, February 24) and ignored by Mr David Harounoff (letter, February 28), is denying this tradition.

For Mr Harounoff to state that the main political parties in Israel support this situation is a very sad point and makes one wonder, with embarrassment, what has happened to that country.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE WADDINGTON,
11 Cork Street, W1.
February 28.

From Mr Michael Hulpern

Sir, Mr David Harounoff's spirited defence of Israel's treatment of Mr Vanunu claims also that it is supported by both Likud and the Opposition.

That is as may be, but the West expects that only Third World dictatorships exact retribution from prisoners — political or otherwise — by incarceration in solitary confinement for a decade.

Such confinement amounts to a cruel and unusual punishment which breaches international standards of accepted behaviour.

Enough would appear to be enough.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HALPERN,
Alington House,
Alington Road, Poole, Dorset.
February 28.

Israel's 'candid friends'

From Mr David Weizmann

Sir, I would strongly oppose the contention put forward by President Weizman during his state visit to this country (report, February 27) that the job of Jews outside Israel is to support Israel, but to keep out of that country's politics.

Jews living outside Israel have as much right to criticise Israel as have Englishmen, Germans, Americans or anyone else to criticise their country, wherever they live, if they feel their policies are wrong.

Criticism must not be mistaken for enmity and Mr Malcolm Rifkind and others are undertaking the role of candid friends, who wish only for Israel and its neighbours to live in a lasting peace.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WEIZMANN,
Orchard Cottage,
27 Grosvenor Road,
Caversham, Reading, Berkshire
March 2.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Mary Magdalene, saint and sinner?

From Ms Susan Haskins

Sir, It is comforting to know that the Bible backs up the Reverend Toddy Hoare's contention (report and picture, February 25) that Mary Magdalene was not a prostitute but the first apostle.

The argument is taken from the New Testament and has been current for at least 1,700 years, since Hippolytus of Rome (d 235) described her as the "apostle to the apostles" in his commentary on the *Song of Songs*.

Conventional theology no longer regards Mary Magdalene as a repentant whore. The idea that she was derives not from the Gospels but from her conflation in early Christian exegesis with the unnamed sinner in Luke (vii, 37, 38), who washed Christ's feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.

Her nakedness has been depicted since the late 13th century, based in *part on her further confusion* with Mary of Egypt, a legendary prostitute.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN HASKINS,
12b Wilmington Square, WC1.
February 26.

From the Reverend Toddy Hoare

Sir, I am grateful for your report about my sculpture of Mary Magdalene as the first apostle, but would like to correct one or two inaccuracies.

The pose was indeed based on a Modigliani drawing, but the model is not a Knayton parishioner; she is an art-school model living at the other end of the county. In any case, I would not like the press to raise the expectations of some, or horror in others, that I am only interested in parishioners taking their clothes off.

The panel on which this sculpture is modelled is not concrete but is *ciment fondu* — ie, cast in a plaster mould taken from a modelled clay original. And the studio I use does not adjoin the vicarage but is in another village.

Yours faithfully,
TODDY HOARE,
Leake Vicarage, Knayton,
Thirsk, North Yorkshire.
March 5.

From the Reverend Professor Emeritus P. Thieme

Sir, There is no need to call for the canonisation of Mary Magdalene. She has been a saint for many centuries: feast day, July 22 — see the calendar of the *Missale Romanum*, the Book of Common Prayer 1662 and 1928 (with proper Collect, Epistle and Gospel), and even the Alternative Service Book.

Not being one of the 12 chosen by our Lord, Mary Magdalene cannot be an apostle. But she *is* the first witness of the Resurrection and venerated as such.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. THIEME,
Haagweg 174, 2282 AJ,
Rijswijk ZH, The Netherlands.
February 25.

Dowding medals

From Mrs Rosanne Anggard

Sir, My sympathies go to the Dowding family regarding their recent differences over the disposal of Lord Dowding's medals, now resolved with their sale to the RAF Museum (report, March 4; see also letter March 3).

I am the eldest grandchild of Field Marshal Sir John Dill and our family inherited his medals and his baton. The medals are kept in a safe place and are therefore never on view. Approximately seven years ago we gave the baton to the Imperial War Museum on loan since it had become increasingly expensive to insure.

When I went to see the baton last year, I was very disappointed to find it displayed in a large cabinet with a mass of trivia such as washing and shaving kits.

Since the Churchill family has raised a considerable sum on the Churchill papers, we are perhaps entitled to ask why others can't realise some money by selling papers and medals. However, in honour of our nation's "grandfathers", I think we would be much happier to see the items well displayed in a suitable place for considerably less financial reward. But where is that place?

Until there is some visionary thought given to a permanent national World War II display of these and other items, controversy over the sale of medals and memorabilia will continue. It is very hard for those who inherit such items to know what to do for the best.

Yours etc,
ROSANNE ANGGARD,
97 Kyrle Road, SW11.
March 4.

Channel 5 retuning

From the Chief Executive of Channel 5

Sir, The notion that "two million householders face charges of up to £100 to have their television sets retuned" (report, February 24) is fantasy. By the time three months have passed from Channel 5's launch *nobody at all* suffering interference to videos or other relevant equipment as a result of Channel 5 transmissions should have to spend *anything* on retuning.

It is a statutory duty of Channel 5's to cure such problems within 14 days of notification. In the three months from launch, and in the month of prelaunch test transmissions, virtually everyone likely to suffer interference will have found out about it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ELSTEIN, Chief Executive,
Channel 5 Broadcasting Limited,
22 Long Acre, WC2.
February 24.

Business letters, page 29

Paper values

From Mr Robert Neave

Sir, How can we not agree with Mr John Nye (letter, March 5) when he points out that the value of the Orton and Churchill papers lies merely in their content?

We derive so much pleasure from the poster of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* which we purchased for, I think, £2.99. This sum did not include an auctioneer's premium, nor do we need insurance to keep it in the kitchen.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NEAVE,
Myrtle Cottage,
Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset.
March 5.

One of a kind

From Professor Emeritus Peter Yates

Sir, To prepare for the cloning era, dictionaries and lawyers will have to redefine the terms "person" and "individual".

I was once faced with this dilemma when a tutor brought to me an essay submitted by a student which was identical to one that he had had from a student in the previous year, the topic having been the same. I suggested that he mark it out of 50 and refer the student to his friend for the other half of the marks. I maintained, and the students eventually agreed, that there was only one essay.

To answer Mrs J. Hadfield's query (letter, February 28), the BBC was quite right to refer to the cloned sheep as "unique". There is only one rose called *Peace* though it appears in many gardens. Members of a clone, though separately mobile, remain one individual and, if human, should have only one vote and one pension.

Yours faithfully,
PETER YATES,
Beach House, Shore Road,
Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire.
February 28.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 6: His Excellency Monsieur Pierre-Michel Nguimbi was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Congo to the Court of St James's.

Madame Nguimbi was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (the Right Reverend John Lewis) who did homage upon his appointment.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President of the Council) administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Derby (Clerk of the Closet) was in attendance.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited Kingsbury High School, Princes Avenue, Brent, London NW9, and was received by Mr Brian Caesar-Gordon (Deputy Lieutenant of Brent), the Chairman of Governors (Mr Roger Stone) and the Mayor of Brent (Councillor Ms Lata Patel).

The Queen toured the school, escorted by the Headmaster (Mr Phillip Snell), viewed various computer and information technology displays and transmitted an E-Mail message to Nakina Public School, *Ontario, Canada.*

Her Majesty subsequently launched the Royal Web Site.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning visited Sir Bani Yas Island in the Persian Gulf.

His Royal Highness later presented a World Wide Fund for Nature Gold Panda Award to Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, The President of the United Arab Emirates.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chairman and Founder of the International Trustees, this afternoon attended a Luncheon for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, before flying from Abu Dhabi to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) called upon the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Carlisle at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, this morning and, on behalf of The Queen, welcomed Their Excellencies on their Arrival in this Country.

Colonel Sir Brian Barttelot, Bt (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Mrs Mugabe and bade farewell to His Excellency and Mrs Mugabe on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Queen was represented by the Baroness Miller of Hendon at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Sherfield (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America) which was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Sir Brian McGrath.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Andrew Palmer.

Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke.

March 6: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning attended the Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Institute of Petroleum's Annual Dinner at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

March 6: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning left Heathrow Airport, London, for New York, United States of America, and was received on arrival by Mr Jeffrey Ling (Her Majesty's Consul General).

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception on Park Avenue in support of the award.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Sir Alastair Aird at the Service of thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Sherfield which was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, today.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 6: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Majlis al Shura (Consultative Council).

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception for British community representatives.

The Prince of Wales later visited the King Faisal Foundation and inaugurated The Prince of Wales's Chevening Scholarship.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception for senior members of the King Faisal Foundation, senior members of Riyadh University and Islamic scholars, followed by a Luncheon given by Prince Khalid al Faisal.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, this afternoon attended a meeting with young Saudi businessmen.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended a presentation, under the auspices of the Janandria festival, of the work of the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts Department of The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended a Dinner given by Prince Sultan bin Salman.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 6: The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Howard House Appeal at St James's Church, St James's Gardens, London W11.

YORK HOUSE

March 6: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Her Majesty's Ship *Coventry*, at sea on operational training, Plymouth and later visited Her Majesty's Naval Base, Devonport, Devon.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this evening unveiled her portrait, followed by dinner, at Downing College, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.

Royal engagements

The Duke of York, as president, will attend the annual dinner of the Royal Household Golf Club at Twickenham Rugby Football Ground, Middlesex, at 7.45.

The Princess Royal will open the Midlands Engineering Centre, Birmingham, for the Institution of Electrical Engineers at 10.30; and will open the new design and engineering centre at the Rover Group Research Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire, at 12.30.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, will attend a discourse given by Professor Robin Clark at Albemarle Street at 7.15.

Reception

HM Government

Mr Anthony Nelson, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House to promote Anglo-Japanese co-operation worldwide.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs William Salomon was christened Alexander David Henry, by the Rev Tom Hiney, MC, on Sunday, March 2, in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The godparents are Mr Jamie Borwick, Mr *Nigel Churton, Mr Dieter Timm*, Mrs Simon Lebus, Mrs Greg Melgaard and Mrs James Miller.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir John Herschel, astronomer, Slough, Buckinghamshire, 1792; Sir Edwin Landseer, painter and sculptor, London, 1802; Maurice Ravel, composer, Ciboure, France, 1875.

DEATHS: St Thomas Aquinas, Dominican theologian, Fossanova, Italy, 1274; Cuthbert Collingwood, 1st Baron Collingwood, admiral, at sea, 1810; John Richard Green, historian, Menton, 1883; Stevie Smith, poet, London, 1971.

Memorial service

Lord Sherfield, FRS

The Queen was represented by Baroness Miller of Hendon, the Duke of Edinburgh by Sir Brian McGrath and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother by Captain Sir Alastair Aird at a memorial service for Lord Sherfield, FRS, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Andrew Palmer and Princess Alexandra by Major Sir Peter Clarke.

Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and the Right Rev Lord Runcie led the prayers. The Hon Dwight Makins, son, read the lesson and the Hon Roland Philipps, grandson read from the works of John Donne. Lord Carrington, KG, CH, gave an address.

The Rev Roger Holloway, Priest Vicar, and the Very Rev John Drury, Dean of Christ Church, were robed and in the Sanctuary.

The Lord Chancellor, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the French Ambassador and the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire attended.

The American Ambassador was represented by Mr Michael Habib, Minister-Counsellor for Political Affairs, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by Sir Michael Pike and the Permanent Under Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Andrew Burns. Among others present were:

Lord and Lady Sherfield (son and daughter-in-law), the Hon Mrs Patricia Makins-Sagan (daughter), Mr and the Hon Mrs Oliver Colman, Viscount and Viscountess Norwich and Mr and the Hon Mrs David Shapiro (sons-in-law and daughters), the Hon Mrs Dwight Makins (daughter-in-law), the Hon Marian Makins, Miss Camilla Colman, Mr Thomas Colman, the Hon Guy and Mrs Phillipps, the Hon Roland and Mrs Phillipps, the Hon Kate Juteau, the Hon Ivo Phillipps, Mr Adam Shapiro, Mr Jacob Shapiro and Mr Jeremy Shapiro (grandchildren), Miss Olivia Morgan, Mr Peter Lowsley-Williams, Mr and Mrs Christopher Legge, Mr James Legge, Miss Josephine Legge, Mrs Judy Legge, Mr Henry Legge, Mr M R Kenyon, Mr and Mrs Antony Beevor, Miss Lenice Walsh, Mr and Mrs Christopher Woodhouse.

The Duchess of Portland, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe, the Duke and Duchess of St Albans, Polly Marchioness Lansdowne, Earl Alexander of Tunis, the Countess of Avon, the Earl and Countess of Dundee, Patricia Countess of Dundee, the Earl and Countess of Erroll, Earl and Countess Ferrers, the Earl of Home, Earl and Countess Jellicoe, Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Viscount Bridgeman, Viscount Caldecote, Viscount Gough, Viscount and Viscountess Hood, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Lady Rupert Nevill.

Lord Aberdare, Lord and Lady Aldington, Lord Amherst of Hackney, Lord Ampthill, Lord and Lady Armstrong of Ilminster, Lord Ashburton, Lord Beloff, FBA, Lady Berkeley, Lord Blaker, Lord Briggs, Lord and Lady Campbell of Croy, Baroness Carnegy of Lour, Field Marshal Lord and Lady Carver, Lord Chalfont, Lord and Lady Charteris of Amisfield, Lord Chorley, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, Lord Crathorne, Lord Cuckney, Lord Dainton, Baroness David, Professor Lord Desai, Lady Eccles of Moulton, Lady Egremont, Lord and Lady Erroll of Hale, Lord Flowers, FRS, (representing the Royal Society) and Lady Flowers.

Lord and Lady Gibson, Lord Gladwyn, Lady Gore-Booth, Lord and Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Stephanie Lady Hankey, Lord Holderness, Baroness Hooper, Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, Lord and Lady Hunt of Tanworth, Baroness Hylton-Foster, Reyner Lady Iliffe, Lord and Lady Inchyra, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Lord Keith of Castleacre, Lord and Lady Lloyd of Berwick, Lady Lloyd of Kilgerran, Lord MacLehose of Beoch, KT, Lord Moore of Wolvercote, Rowena Lady Northbrook, Lord Pender, Lady Penney, Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, Baroness Plant of Writtle, Lady Plowden.

Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM, FRS, Lord Pym, Lord and Lady Quinton, Baroness Rawlings, Lady Ridgate, Lord and Lady Richardson of Duntisbourne, Lord Richardson, Lord Roll of Ipsden, Lady Roskill, Lady Runcie, Lord Shawcross, QC, Lord and Lady Simon of Glaisdale, Lord and Lady Thomson of Monifieth, Lady Thorneycroft, Lady Trend, Lady Trevelyan, Baroness Trumpington, Lord Walton of Detchant, Lord Weatherill, Lord Wilberforce, QC, and Lady Wilberforce, Baroness Young.

Lady Margaret Colville, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, Mr John Bitten, MP, Sir Michael Palliser, the Hon Nicholas Assheton, the Hon Mrs Caroline Baring, the Hon Mrs Julian Berry, the *Hon Raymond and Mrs Bonham* Carter, the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Robin Denison-Pender, the Hon Lady Douglas, the Hon Dr Alex Hankey, the Hon Miranda Harvey, the Hon Juliet Harvey, the Hon Lady Palmer, the Hon Richard and Mrs Palmer, Dr the Hon Christopher and Mrs Penney.

The Hon Mrs Martin Penney, the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Ramsbotham, the Hon Mrs D Pryce-Jones, the Hon Richard Seebohm, the Hon Mrs Douglas Wedgwood, the Hon William Waldegrave, MP, the Hon Anthony Warrender, Sir Tobias and Lady Clarke, Anne Lady Jaffray, Sir Richard Lloyd, Sir John and the Hon Lady Lucas-Tooth, Lady Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Auriol Lady Ropner, Nancy Lady Smiley, Sir Humphrey and Lady Wakefield.

Sir Antony Acland (Order of St Michael and St George) and Lady Acland, Sir Philip and the Hon Lady Adams, Sir Ronald and Lady Arculus, Sir Derick and Lady Ashe, Lady (John) Balfour, Lady Barnett, Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, FBA, Sir John Boyd (Master, Churchill College, Cambridge) and Lady Boyd, Sir Julian Bullard, Sir Terence Burns (Order of the Bath), Sir Alan Campbell, Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, Sir Robert Clark, Lady Clarke, Sir Anthony Cleaver (Chairman, AEA) and Lady Cleaver, Sir Alcon and Lady Copisarow, Lady (John) Coulson.

Lady (Patrick) Dean, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, Sir Derek Dodson, Lady (Eric) Drake, Sir Anthony Durrant, MP, Sir Kenneth and Lady Eaton, Professor Sir Roger Elliott, FRS, Sir Edward Ford, Sir Campbell Fraser, General Sir David and Lady Fraser, Sir Donald Hawley, Sir Alexander and Lady Glen, Sir William Goodhart, QC, and the Hon Lady Goodhart, Sir Ronald Grierson, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Sir Michael Howard, FBA, Sir Edward and Lady Jackson, Sir Martin and Lady Jacomb, Sir Michael Jenkins, Sir John Killick, Lady Kingman, Sir Antony Laughton, FRS, and Lady Lawson, Lady Lidderdale, Lady (Julian) Loyd, Sir Donald and Lady Logan.

Sir Gilbert Longden, Sir Kenneth Macdonald (Rayfield), Sir Michael Marshall, MP, Sir Peter and Lady Marshall, Sir John Mason, Sir Guy and Lady Millard, Sir John Moreton, Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles, Sir Jeremy and Lady Morse, Sir Alan Muir Wood, FRS, Sir Patrick Neill, QC, and Lady Neill, Lady Oxburgh (Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine), the Rev Sir Derek Pattinson, Lady Pilcher, Sir Edward Playfair, Sir Patrick and Lady Reilly, Sir Frank Roberts, Sir Clive Rose, Lady (Archibald) Ross, Lady Rowan, Sir James and Lady Spooner, Sir Andrew Stark.

Lady Stewart, Sir Crispin and Lady Tickell, Sir Edward Tomkins, Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, and Lady Vaughan, Lady Villiers, Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS, Sir Michael and Lady Wilford, Sir David and Lady Wills, Sir Denis and Lady Wright, Sir Richard and Lady Young, Mr Charles Katherine Parrell, Mr Frank and Lady Katharine Giles, Mr John and Lady Sylvia Maltby, Mr Kevin and Lady Gardner of Parkes, Mr John and Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Mrs Drue Heinz.

Mr and Mrs Julian Agnew, *Mr and* Mrs A M Allen, Mrs G Amory, Mr Geoffrey Barnett, Mr John Baxter, Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Mr William Bell, Mr and Mrs Christopher Bostock, Mr Frank Brenchley, Mrs Humphrey Brooke, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr P F C Pane, Miss Serena Fass, Mr Peter Few Brown, Mr and Mrs Bamber Gascoigne, Dr *and Mrs* John Glyn, Mr M J Gordon, Dr S J D Green, Professor Peter Grootenhuis, Mr and Mrs Henry Hainworth, Mr and Mrs William Harris, Professor Peter Hennessy, Mrs Nicholas Hinton, Mr and Mrs P B Hirsch, Dr Anthony Hobson, FBA, Mr H V Hodson, Mr Alistair Horne, Mr Andrew Hunter, MP, Mr Robert Jackson, MP, Mr and Mrs Laurence Kelly, Dr Saul Kelly, Mr Mervyn King, Mrs Cecil King.

Mrs Derek Lawson, Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke, Mr Wacyn Lewis, Mr B Lloyd Davies, Mrs Anthony Loehnis, Ms Anne Longden, Mr and Mrs Ian Mackeson-Sandbach, Mrs I E Mackeson-Sandbach, Mr Ewen Macpherson, Mrs Ann Marshall, Mrs Anna Mason, Mr Julian R Mathias, Mrs Terence Maxwell, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Richard Mayfield, Mr R J McCreery, Mrs A J McGregor, Mr Leonard Miall, Mr Edward Mortimer, Mr Geoffrey Myers, Mr and Mrs R A Nickerson, Mrs Edward Norman-Butler, Mr and Mrs John Ogden, Mr and Mrs R H Priestley, Mrs Eduardo Propper de Callejon.

Mr Steve Race, Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, Ms Sue Rayner, Mr and Mrs Struan Robertson, Professor J M Rogers, FBA, Baroness (Robert) Rothschild, Mrs Anthea Ryan, Mr Tony Salvesen, Mr Ralph Sanderson, Mr and Mrs Scott Scofield, Griffin Sedfield, Mr Ralph Selby, Captain and Mrs Robin Sheepshanks, Mr and Mrs John Sheffield, Mr and Mrs Charles Shelton, Mr and Mrs Robert L Sigmond, Mr and Mrs J H Smith, Mr Antony Snow, Mr and Mrs William Steel, Mrs Edward Streator, Professor J T Stuart, Miss V Surtees, Mr G W Taylor, Baron Vaes, Mr Hugo Vickers, Mr Peter Viggers, MP, Dr L L Ware, Mr and Mrs Robert Whitaker, Mrs Derek Whiting, Mr Henry Wyndham.

Mr Paul D G Hayter (Assistant Clerk of the Parliaments), Dr C C Bradley (Parliamentary Scientific Committee) and Mrs Bradley with Mrs A C Lloyd, the Vice-Chancellor of Reading University with past and present members of staff, the Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, with Dr John Bailey and Mr Jeremy Lever, QC; Mr Harold Gould (Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences, Albert Hall), Mr G W Maillinckrodt (Schruders), Mr Brian Eyre (AEA) and Mrs Eyre, Mr Robin Hamlyn (Tate Gallery), Mr R W Lloyd-Davies (St Thomas' Hospital), Mr Robert M Worcester (The Pilgrims) with other members of the society.

Representatives of British-American-Canadian Associates, the British-North American Research Association, the Centre for International Briefing, the European-Atlantic Group, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, the Mid-Atlantic Club, Ordnance Survey, the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies, Reading Arts Festival, Winchester College, the Wykehamist Society and many other friends and colleagues.

Viscount and Viscountess Eccles regret they were unable to attend the memorial service for Lord Sherfield, FRS, because of ill-health.

Luncheons

HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of the Minister for Defence of Estonia.

Consular Corps of London

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Britannia Hotel. Mr Willie Wilder, president, was in the chair. The Earl of Inchcape, Sir John Smith and Mr Robin Gorham were among the guests.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce

Mr John S. Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr Michael Chapman, president, was in the chair. The Canadian High Commissioner, Lord Marsh and the Agent General for Quebec were among those present.

Dinners

Navy Board

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, presided at the Lent Term dinner of the Navy Board held last night at Admiralty House. Among those present were:

Lord Hope of Craighead, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, Sir Robert Fellowes, Mr James Arbuthnot, MP, Dr David Clark, MP, Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Mr Max Hastings, Mr Walter Boreham, Mr Alex Dorrian and Mr Peter Gershon.

Army Board

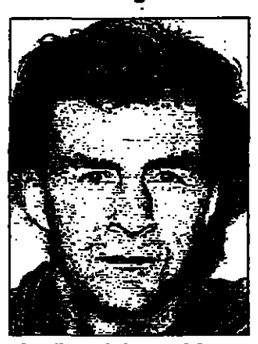
General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, was the host at a dinner given by the Army Board at the Royal Hospital Chelsea yesterday in honour of Major-General Ali bin Rashid bin Mohammad Al Kalbani, Commander Royal Army of Oman.

Among those present were:

The Ambassador of Oman, Sir Geoffrey Patrie, MP, General Sir Michael Rose, General Sir Michael Walker, General Sir Peter de la Billiere, General Sir Brian Kenny, Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Cowan, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce, Sir Alan Munro, Major-General Mike Willcocks, Major-General Mike Scott, Major-General Jeremy Pilpps, Major-General Charles Vyvyan, Major-General Robin Searby, Rear-Admiral Sam Salt, Brigadier Mike Keun, Brigadier Saif bin Suleiman bin Saif Al Ma'ani, Colonel Salim bin Musallam bin Ali Al Qatan, Colonel Wilf Charlesworth, Group Captain Said Hassan Al-Shidadi, Major Ben Hodgson, Mr David Wright, Mr Andrew Burns, Mr Colin Clark, Mr Adrian Day and Mr Ray Kane.

Today's birthdays

Mr David Arbuthnot, racehorse trainer, 44; Sir Robert Atkinson, former chairman, British Shipbuilders, 81; Mr William Boyd, author, 45; Mr W.A. Bromley-Davenport, Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, 62; Viscount Chelmsford, 66; *Mr Malcolm Chisholm*, MP, 48; Mr G.A. Cooke, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 74; Professor D.P. Farrington, criminal psychologist, 53; Mr Clive Gillinson, managing director, London Symphony Orchestra, 51; Sir Kenneth Green, Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, 63; Mr Justice Hidden, 61; Mr John Horam, MP, 58; Mr D.O. Horne, former chairman, Lloyds Merchant Bank, 65; Mr R.F. Humm, vice-chairman and chief executive, Alexanders Holdings, 60; Mr Nicholas Kraemer, conductor, 52; Sir Anthony Lambert, diplomat, 86; Sir John Laney, former High Court judge, 83; Mr Ivan Lendl, tennis player, 37; Mr Robinton Mistry, novelist, 45; Sir Paul Nicholson, Lord-Lieutenant of Co Durham, 59; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, 76; Mr Michael Oliver, racehorse trainer, 47; Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, sculptor, 73; Dame Beryl Paston Brown, former Principal, Homerton College, Cambridge, 88; Sir Peter Petrie, an adviser to the Governors of the Bank of England, 65; Lord Phillips of Ellesmere, FRS, 73; Mr Piers Paul Read, author, 56; Mr Viv Richards, cricketer, 45; the Earl of Snowdon, 67; Sir David Spedding, diplomat, 54; Mr Richard Vernon, actor, 72; Dame Margaret Weston, former director, Science Museum, 71; Professor Gordon Willey, archaeologist, 84; Mr David J. Wright, chief executive, GKN Westland, 57.



Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, the explorer, is 53 today

School news

Wycombe Abbey School

Wycombe Abbey School has made the following Awards for 1997:

The Wycombe Abbey Open Scholarships: Jointly Sarah Pace-Balzan, Wycombe Abbey; Caroline Sherrington, Ashdown House.

The William Johnston Yapp Scholarship: Alexandra Bell, The International School, The Philippines.

The Centenary Scholarship: Fiona McNicoll, High March School.

The Whitelaw Scholarship for Music: Jointly - Angela Choe, *Port Regis School; Clare Davis, Rowan Hill* Preparatory School.

The Crosthwaite Scholarship: Emily Turnbull, Burgess Hill School.

The Walpole Scholarship: Helen Jones, High March School.

Exhibitions: Pamela Brent, Godstowe Preparatory School; Sophie Donnithorne-Tait, Ashdown House; Alison Fanous, St Catherine's School, Bramley; Olivia Vanbergen, Wycombe Abbey.

Wycombe Abbey School (Registered Charity No: 310638) promotes the education of girls.

Adcote School for Girls

The Governors of Adcote School for Girls, Shrewsbury, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Angela Read as Headmistress from September, 1997.

Durham School

The Governors are pleased to announce that Mr Neil Kern has been appointed Headmaster of Durham School, following the retirement of Mr Michael Lang. Mr Kern is at present a Housemaster at Repton School and will take up his post on September 1, 1997.

Service dinners

Mounted Infantry Club

General Sir Frank Kitson, presided at a dinner of the Mounted Infanty Club held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Major-General J.D.G. Pank was the guest speaker.

4th British Infantry Division RASC

Colonel R.F. Discombe, Chairman of the RASC/RCT Association, presided at a reunion dinner of past officers (1939-45) of the 4th British Infantry Division RASC and their ladies held last night at the Manor House Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh.

Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews Universities' Air Squadron

Air Marshal P.T. Squire, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel), was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews Universities' Air Squadron held last night at RAF Leuchars. Acting Pilot Officer R. Ruben, Cadet President, was in the chair and Squadron Leader M.J. Hopkinson, Commanding Officer, received the guests. The Vice-Principal of Dundee University, the Head of the Department of Economics, Aberdeen University, and the Professor of History and International Relations, St Andrews University, were among the guests.

Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron

Air Vice-Marshal John Day, Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron held last night at the Trades House of Glasgow. Professor Dugald Cameron, Director of Glasgow School of Art, was the principal academic guest. Squadron Leader Julian J. Collis, Squadron Commander, presided. Representatives of the RAF, academic establishments and local organisations were among the guests.

The Sternberg Centre for Judaism

Cardinal Basil Hume was presented with the Council of Christians and Jews Sternberg Award by the Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, yesterday at The Sternberg Centre for Judaism in Finchley.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P. Beckitt and Miss J.H. Burnett-Stuart

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs J.C. Beckit, of Newport, South Wales, and Joanna, daughter of *Mr and Mrs J. Burnett-*Stuart, of Ardmeallie, Banffshire.

Mr J.P. Brown and Miss P.L. MacIntyre

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Iain Brown, of Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, and Philippa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter MacIntyre, of Dunbar, East Lothian.

Mr J.A. Chesterfield and Miss E.K. Winker

The engagement is announced between Julian Adam, son of Mr and Mrs David Chesterfield, of Frome, Somerset, and Erin Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gary Winker, of Ocracoke, North Carolina, USA.

Mr R.J. Dale and Miss R.E. Bown

The engagement is announced between *Richard, son of Mr and* Mrs John Dale, of New Romney, Kent, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Bown, of Warlingham, Surrey.

Mr M.R.C.C. Dormer and Miss S.J. Hudson

The engagement is announced between Merlin, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Dormer, of Bowdown House, Newbury, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr B. Hudson, of Te Horo, New Zealand, and Mrs M. Dacre, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr S.D.D. Johnson and Miss F.M. Davidson

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs David Johnson, of Holton, Suffolk, and Fiona, daughter of *Mr Colin* Davidson, MB, MCh, FRCS, and Mrs Davidson, of Bristol.

Mr J.R.C. Strachwitz Hamilton and Countess K.E. zu Solms-Laubach

The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Strachwitz Hamilton, of Dorset, and Katharina, daughter of Count Friedrich zu Solms-Laubach, of Munich, and Ulrike Riedesel Freifrau zu Eisenbach, of *Lauterbach, Germany.*

Mr N.J. Judge and Miss L.J.M. Bond

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Dr and Mrs K. Judge, of Westwell, Kent, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Bond, of Hilton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr R.G. Levin and Miss T.E. Smurfit

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Michael Levin and the late Mrs Shirley Levin, of London, and Tina, younger daughter of Mrs Ann Smurfit and the late Mr John Jefferson Smurfit, of Dublin, Ireland.

Mr J.L. Park and Miss F.H.I. Southern

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr James Park, of Harrow, Middlesex, and the late Mrs James Park, and Fanny, younger daughter of Mrs Hugo Southern, of Bratton, Wiltshire, and the late Hugo Southern.

Captain A.J. Peeke and Miss M.J.L. Dean

The engagement is announced between Alexander Peeke, The Light Infantry, elder son of Squadron Leader and Mrs G. Peeke, of Rheindahlen, Germany, and Melanie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.H. Dean, of Newgate Street Village, Hertfordshire.

Mr B. Recordon and Miss F.C. Durksz

The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Nigel Recordon, of *Colwall, Herefordshire*, and Freya, daughter of Mr and Mrs Feijo Durksz, of Wassenaar, The Netherlands.

Mr M.G. Tufnell and Miss K.L. Adam

The engagement is announced between Michael, second son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Wynne Tufnell, of Bighton, Hampshire, and Katharine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Adam, of Halland, East Sussex.

Marriage

Colonel D.B. Emley and Mrs U.C. Thompson

The marriage took place quietly on Friday, February 28, at Margaret Marsh Church, of Colonel Derek Emley and Mrs Una Thompson, both of Marnhull, Dorset. The Rev Canon Barnett officiated.

Crufts results

The following are the first day's results at Crufts which opened at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday:

Terriers and Hounds Group

Airedale Terrier: Jokyl Sweetie Pie; Miss O Jackson, Farnham, Surrey. Bedlington Terrier: Ch. Jossolli Joe's Girl; Mr & Mrs T Hunter, Dewsbury, West Yorks. Bull Terrier (Miniature): Ch. Lizette Third Encounter; Mrs A Pasterson, Edinburgh. Dandie Dinmont Terrier: Cassencarrie Postmaster; Mrs B Deacon, Plymouth, Devon.

Fox Terrier (Wire): Fairwyre Pretty Perfect; Mrs A Staniield, Dudley, West Midlands. Kerry Blue Terrier: Ch. Arranshire Pioneer; Messrs R Ramsey & R Good, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Norwich Terrier: Belleville Sweet Temptation; Mrs C Thompson, Doncaster, South Yorks. Scottish Terrier: Ch. Mayson Paper Chase; Mr & Mrs J Gaskell, Rotherham, South Yorks.

Sealyham Terrier: Topstage Bailey's on Ice; Miss J Lynn, Blackburn, Lancs.

Basenji: Jaswyn Thalia at Klamera, Miss S Thompson & Mr P Lee, Bolton, Lancs.

Dachshund (Long-haired): Ch. Bronla Conquistador; Mr F Mitchell, West Boldon, Tyne & Wear.

Dachschund (Smooth-haired): Tracerunna Exclusive; Mr & Mrs R Little, Blackwood, Gwent.

Dachshund (Wire-haired): Abletody Pizzicato, Mrs R Clifford, Devizes, Wilts. Dachshund (Miniature Wire-haired): Drakesleat Hups 'n Downs; Mrs J Horswell, Stockport, Cheshire.

Deerhound: Ch. Killoeter Onich; Dr S Caine, Dumbartonshire.

Finnish Spitz: Ch. Towerl Kuukkeli; Mr & Mrs C Window, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Hamiltonstovare: Tedandi Scarlet Ribbons at Pedsiip, Mr & Mrs I Daly, Dundry, North Somerset.

Ibizan Hound: Ch. Paran Christmas Ivy; Mr D Startup, Baldock, Herts.

Irish Wolfhound: Shadow of Klimara; Mrs D Keals-Fordham, Horsham, West Sussex.

Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen: Debuchar c'est ca; Mrs V Phillips, Berkhamstead, Herts.

Whippet: Ch. Bluestreak Beauty of Bath; Mrs C Brown, Landbeach, Cambs.

Border Terrier: Ashbrae Hickory; Mr and Mrs A Cuthbertson, Yarm, Cleveland. Bull Terrier: Ch Jappatin Mystery Girl; Mr D Muspratt, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Cairn Terrier: Ch Kinkum Ludvic Mr and Mrs R Birch, Market Drayton, Shropshire.

Fox Terrier (Smooth): Ch Mosvalley Helmsman of Jacqspot; Mrs J Jacques, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. Glen of Imaal Terrier: Captain Kirk of Jeonty; Mrs C Rogers, Boston, Lincolnshire. Irish Terrier: Ch Tuberessa Beau Venture Ardgabha; Mr and Mrs W Semple, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

Lakeland Terrier: Kilmarth Moon Walker; Mr and Mrs R Walker, Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

Manchester Terrier: Ch Twisel Uttanuta; Mr and Mrs B Evans, Torquay, Devon. Norfolk Terrier: Ch Cracknor Call My Bluff; Miss M Matell, Ashford, Kent.

Parson Jack Russell: Wemcroft Tinsel; Mrs S Way, Ivybridge, South Devon. Skye Terrier: Coralynne Bonnie Laddie; Mr and Mrs M Biondi, Glasgow

Soft Coated Wheaten: Ch Stevelyn Blue Suede Shoes of Kariskay; Mr and Mrs R Tanner, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

West Highland White: Vallange Victorious; Mr and Mrs K Harris Exeter, Devon.

Basset Fauve de Bretagne: Venquest Exquis; Mr and Mrs G Telfer, Ely, Cambridgeshire. Basset Hound: Ch Switherland Blue Jeans; Mr and Mrs P Freer, Little Eaton, Derbyshire.

Otterhound: Maycup Maverick; Mrs C Parker, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Rhodesian Ridgeback: Mangwe Liesha; Mrs J Baldwin, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Saluki: Guizar Al-Mutakabbir; Mrs P Kendall, East Hoathly, East Sussex.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier: Brystaff Mindern Rose at Obmarstaff; Mr & Mrs A Hilgton, Buxton, Derbys. Welsh Terrier: Ch Saredon Sweet Inspiration with Tilsen; Miss A Witmood, Ilford, Essex.

Beagle: Ch Dialynne Tolliver of Dragband; Mr A Brace, Blackwood, Gwent.

Bloodhound: Brighton's Opera; Miss S Emrys-Jones, Cornwall. Borzoi: Ch Starborough Gorse at Redbannet; Mrs J Stevens-Smith, Southport, Merseyside.

Dachshund, Miniature Long-haired: Ch Jadag Bjorn Veeta; Mrs D Graham, Mansfield, Nots.

Elkhound: Kestos Quick Step; Mrs B Stokes, Powys. Greyhound: Ch Gaysyde Christmas Cracker; Mrs B Rowe, Westbury on Severn, Gloucs.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I did not speak in secret, in realms of darkness; I did not say to Jacob's people, 'Look for me in the formless waste'. I the Lord speak what is right and what is just. Isaiah 45 : 19

BIRTHS

BALFOUR - On 6th March in Sydney, to Fiona and James, a son, David James McRae, brother for Emma.

BICKER - On February 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Jayne (née Gold) and Robert, a beautiful son, Robert, a brother for James.

DISLEY - On 5th March 1997, to Stefanie and Frederick, a daughter, Paige Elizabeth.

ELMHIRST - On March 4th 1997, to Jane (née Sharp) and Jake, a daughter, Sophie.

GILLIES - On March 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Alison and Crawford, a son, Alas

OBITUARIES

CHEDDI JAGAN

Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana since 1992, died yesterday at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, Washington, aged 78. He was born on March 22, 1918.



It is ironic that Cheddi Jagan spent his last days being cared for in a US military hospital, after having been for so long a dogged opponent of US policies and a committed supporter of the Soviet Union. Washington, through its powers in diplomacy and the CIA and its associated arms, did everything possible to ensure that he never came to power during the Cold War period.

Jagan was the figure in the political life of British Guiana who gained most international notice during the last tumultuous decade of that territory's life as a colony.

Handsome, and with immense charm, he had some of the qualities of a demagogue, but one without sure political instincts. He was a Communist who followed the Moscow line, but he lacked the ruthlessness and discipline of the true Marxist revolutionary. He was confused about means, a dismal tactician, and he was outmanoeuvred by his opponents at home and abroad.

Descended from indentured Indian labourers, and one of 11 children, Cheddi Bharrat Jagan was born on a sugar plantation in the Corentyne. He was educated at Queen's College, Georgetown, from where he went on to study dentistry in the United States. There he met and married, in 1943, his wife Janet Rosenberg, later establishing himself in dental practice in Georgetown, with her as his nurse.

The couple formed political discussion groups and published tracts. Jagan was elected to British Guiana's Legislative Council in 1947, representing the East Demarara sugar workers. In 1950 the People's Progressive Party (PPP) was founded, joining the two main racial groups in the colony in political union, with Jagan as leader, his wife as general secretary, and a black barrister, Linden Forbes Burnham, as chairman. In 1953, in the first election with universal suffrage, they won overwhelmingly.

In office, the party made clear its intended lack of respect for the colonial constitution. Jagan was Minister of Agriculture, Labour and Mines: the PPP, through the union it controlled, called a general strike in the sugar industry. After 133 days the Governor suspended the constitution, considering the Government pro-Communist. Jagan rushed to London to rally support: after he returned, he and his wife were detained for six months.

Always ambitious, Burnham tried to seize control of the PPP in early 1955, but was blocked by the Jaganites: two rival PPPs came into existence, divided by race. The constitution was restored in 1957, and in the election which followed, Jagan's supporters, using the Hindi slogan "Apan Jaat" (Vote your Own) won nearly two thirds of the seats. A successful period in office followed, with the emphasis on development and on new schools and roads. Following the election of 1961, under a more advanced constitution, Jagan became "BG's" first Premier, and he planned independence for 1962.

But in that year Georgetown's black population rose up in protest against an austerity budget. Jagan was humiliated, having to call in the British troops. Deep communal suspicion and violence now separated what had been a harmonious multiracial society. Many non-Hindu Guianese, especially professionals, emigrated. Jagan stubbornly tried to impose his will on the black trade unions, who responded with a general strike of 79 days, and they won.

In their struggle, the trade unions, especially the civil servants', were largely sustained by funding later revealed as coming from US intelligence sources, now deeply concerned over Jagan's Soviet links, as President Kennedy made clear to Harold Macmillan, who promised Britain's co-operation.

At the London Constitutional Conference in 1963, with Guianese parties deadlocked, the Colonial Secretary, Duncan Sandys, prevailed upon them to sign an agreement giving him *carte blanche* to propose his own solution. Astonishingly, Jagan agreed: it was Burnham who was hesitant. Sandys opted for proportional representation, allowing a combination of all other races to out-vote the Hindus.

Furious at his own naivety, Jagan at first refused to accept the decision, but he eventually contested the subsequent election. Ethnic violence marked the campaign, and the Governor, Sir Richard Luyt, took emergency powers. Jagan was defeated, and yielded office to a coalition of Burnham's People's National Congress and a small pro-capitalist party.

Independence came in 1966. Burnham consolidated his power. Jagan's response was confused, as he was outwitted by the ruthless and opportunistic Burnham, who declared Guyana a co-operative and socialist republic and nationalised all major industries, outflanking Jagan by developing warm relations with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Jagan's rigidity made co-operation with other opposition elements impossible, and direct challenges such as the strike of the East Indian sugar workers were broken. Some leading PPP figures were even enticed away by ministerial office.

In common with many impartial observers, Jagan denounced the fraudulent character of subsequent Guyanese elections. But he continued to participate in them, as an exercise in party and above all ethnic solidarity.

He spent the 1980s campaigning for free elections. Burnham died in August 1985, being succeeded as President by Desmond Hoyte, who inherited an economy laid waste by nearly 20 years of political nepotism and incompetence. Formerly prosperous Guyanese had sunk to the level of Haiti in their per capita earnings, vying for the lowest place in the Americas. The IMF, USaid and the Caribbean Development Bank refused all further aid and credit.

Hoyte, essentially a pragmatist very far from Burnham's egoism, was forced to seek help from outside. The price was an undertaking that free and fair elections would eventually come. A rapprochement with the US Administration followed, and the IMF became friendlier. There was massive devaluation, and a privatisation programme was announced.

As part of the growing understanding between Washington and Moscow, the Soviet Union now ceased to sustain its supporters among Caribbean leftists, apart from Cuba: the prospect of Jagan's coming to power thus became less of a worry to the Americans. As the Soviet empire and then the USSR itself disintegrated, it was possible to view this still committed Marxist with equanimity.

In October 1992, watched by observers from the Commonwealth and the Carter Centre, Jagan was elected President at the age of 74, having stood on a broad ticket combining the PPP with a number of publicly concerned individuals and small orgaisations.

In his four years in office Jagan allowed the privatisation policy begun by Hoyte to continue, though at a slow and deliberate pace. He was suspicious of any forced sale of the family silver, remarking that he had not been elected to preside over the liquidation of Guyana.

The foreign debt position improved: several major creditors, including Britain, helped by writing off large amounts. GDP, from its very low base, began to climb. Goldmining saw a spectacular increase. Rice and sugar production rose.

Constrained by the IMF restructuring programme, the collapse of world communism and Guyana's perilous economic situation, Jagan appeared a moderate in office — though he made clear that his Marxist views remained unreconstructed.

But, though many Guyanese of all shades respected him, they often thought differently of his ministers and officials. There has been little progress in the task of building racial unity.

Under the constitution, he is succeeded now as President by the Prime Minister, Samuel Hinds, the black former chairman of Guyanese Action for Reform and Democracy (Guard). But his death leaves Guyana facing a period of great political uncertainty, until and beyond the general election scheduled for this October. He leaves no designated successor in the PPP.

Jagan is survived by his wife and by a son, who has said he would be available for selection to succeed his father, and a daughter.

WILLIAM TATTON BROWN

William Tatton Brown, CB, architect, died on February 2 aged 86. He was born on October 13, 1910.





The Penguin Pool at London Zoo, on which William Tatton Brown worked as Berthold Lubetkin's assistant

IN A wide-ranging architectural career, William Tatton Brown helped to design some of the most outstanding state schools of the immediate post-war period, ran a Ministry of Health department and enjoyed the pleasure of private practice. He worked first with the pioneering Berthold Lubetkin, who helped to introduce modern architecture to Britain in the 1930s, before moving on to work with Hertfordshire County Council in the 1940s and 1950s.

He was in charge of the Ministry of Health's hospital building programme in the 1960s, but also, during much of his career, worked in partnership with his wife Aileen on domestic projects.

William Eden Tatton Brown was born in Lewes, spent his early years in Egypt where his father was head of Egyptian Customs, returned to England after the First World War and went to school in Rottingdean. From there he went to Wellington College and, in 1928, was at the Architectural Association School for a year, going on to King's College, Cambridge, to read history and architecture.

In 1932 he went to France, tried without success to work for Le Corbusier, got a job with Andre Lurçat, another fine architect, and, back in London, in 1933 completed his training in the AA School's 5th year. It was then, in 1934, that he joined the up-and-coming firm of Tecton, run by Lubetkin.

For a young architect, interested above all in design, his time with Lubetkin proved remarkable. He worked on the Penguin Pool at London Zoo and the pair of great apartment blocks, Highpoint I and II, in North Hill, Highgate. While the Penguin Pool, a breakthrough in terms of an architectural conception, fired him with enthusiasm, the Highpoint blocks were of particular importance to Tatton Brown.

He was the chief assistant for these, and what he learnt from their highly sophisticated structures, planning and details persisted as an influence throughout his life. As a continuation of his training, the experience could not be bettered.

With this background, he became deeply involved with the modern movement and with the Mars (Modern Architectural Research) Group. In 1938 he left Tecton to set up in practice with Lionel Brett. This did not last long. With the outbreak of war, he worked first on the design of air raid shelters, then joined the Royal Engineers and, before going out to Burma, published a piece on the replanning of part of bombed London in the *Architectural Review* in collaboration with his wife, a former assistant of Lubetkin's, whom he married in 1936.

On demobilisation in 1945, a government grant paid for a town-planning course that brought him the job of assistant regional planning officer at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

The ministry did not come up to expectations and Tatton Brown left in 1948 to become deputy county architect for Hertfordshire and preside over a group of exceptionally talented and educationally orientated architects — David Medd, Mary Crowley, Anthony Porter, Stirrut Johnson-Marshall and Oliver Cox — who led the way in meeting the requirements of R. A. Butler's 1944 Education Act.

This called for a massive school building programme which was exceedingly difficult to fulfil on account of extreme shortages of materials. It was a problem which forced out prefabrication, the lightweight structures, panels and tubular steel trusses which Tatton Brown's group transformed into an aesthetic of unique quality.

This form of construction, developed from experimental work in prefabrication for military use in the war and never before employed in the educational field, was excellent so long as it was limited to the problem it was designed to solve. It was only when its use spread more widely — to university buildings and housing, for instance — that it came to seem disastrous.

While Tatton Brown was in Hertfordshire, the family moved to a farmhouse with 70 acres near Berkhamsted which they farmed. He and his wife, who had already made extensive conversion to a house they owned in Kensington, made various alterations to their farmhouse and, in 1965, also built a house in Spain. Meanwhile he had, for reasons of economy and efficiency, brought his experience of industrial techniques in school buildings, and his knowledge of systems in America and Scandinavia, to bear on large-scale hospital design.

He was appointed a Companion of the Bath in 1965 and, although retiring in 1971, continued to work as a consultant to the ministry and to lecture at hospital conferences throughout the world. He built a second house in Spain, and wrote (with Paul James) *Hospitals: Design and Development*.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

ROBERT YOUNG

Robert Young, orthopaedic surgeon, died on February 8 aged 93. He was born on October 6, 1903.

ONE of the most distinguished orthopaedic surgeons of the postwar era, Bob Young made his greatest contribution in the development of the surgical treatment of lumbar disc lesions, and also conditions of the knee joint before the days of arthroscopy.

Robert Henry Young was educated at Sherborne, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and St Thomas' Hospital, qualifying MRCS LRCP in 1929. He obtained the degree of BCh (Cantab) in 1934 and FRCS (Eng) in 1936.

He worked as orthopaedic house surgeon and registrar at St Thomas', and as chief assistant to the orthopaedic department under Rowley Bristow. He was in charge of the physiotherapy department, where his association with James Cyriax developed his interest in conditions of the lumbar spine.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, he was appointed orthopaedic surgeon to Botley's Park War Hospital at Chertsey, Surrey, which became a sector hospital of St Thomas', as part of the Emergency Medical Service.

There he worked with B. H. Burns, who was orthopaedic surgeon at St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner. Together they pioneered the surgical treatment of lumbar disc lesions. They established a safe and reliable technique of laminectomy — surgical incision into the backbone — for removal of the protruded or damaged lumbar disc. In the days before scans or adequate radiological investigation, they stressed the importance of exploration of more than one level in the lumbar spine.

The hospital at Chertsey was one of the first receiving hospitals for casualties after Dunkirk and D-Day, and offered great opportunities for the development of internal fixation of fractures for the purpose of early mobilisation.

After the war, Young was appointed orthopaedic surgeon to St George's Hospital, where he worked from 1946 to 1968, at the same time continuing at Chertsey where St Peter's Hospital was redeveloped on the old site at Botley's Park. He also started the department at the new St George's Hospital at Tooting in 1956.

Young was an outstanding surgeon and a good teacher both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He was particularly patient and painstaking in the instruction of his juniors in the operating theatres.

He had a great interest in scientific matters both inside and outside medicine, and developed considerable expertise in the "mathematics of chance". He was very fond of



music, loved the ballet and was himself a talented pianist. He also enjoyed flying.

Shortly after his retirement from the NHS he moved to Malta, where he continued work with the Armed Forces stationed there until the bases were closed down, when he returned to London and resumed private practice until the early 1980s.

He finally retired to his farm in Somerset where, with typical energy, he set out to grow asparagus, develop a small lake for fishing, and start the distribution of beer from the family brewery in Wandsworth to the hostelries round Yeovil and the Navy mess at the Fleet Air Arm base at Yeovilton.

In 1929 he married Nancy Wilcox. The marriage was dissolved. He married his second wife, Norma Williams, in 1961. He is survived by her and by their two sons.

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TO THE WHIGS

Lost to shame, lost to feeling, lost to principles, you have sworn to love, honour, and obey the most unprincipled despot that could inflict misery on human society — a turbulent democracy. The honesty, the religion, the respectability of England are opposed to you; the results of the county elections have testified the feeling of the uncorrupted heart of the people; and we, who are attached to the security and well-being of the State, have strong hope that the incubus of Radical whiggism will not long oppress the energies of England . . .

Your Premier has a sensitive mind: it would be cruel to torture him with his own reflection. There is nothing much worth notice in the moral features of a relaxed *roué*. The effects of past indulgence on the body and the mind belong to the observation of the philosopher and the physiologist . . . His Lordship, the present Prime Minister of England, is negatively mischievous, having energy neither for active good or evil. A well-planned seduction, a piece of brilliant profligacy, would be the most probable things in which his Lordship's docile mind and enervated body would employ themselves . . .

Successive failures in every mode of ambition have driven Lord John Russell to the political stage, where, with commendable zeal, he has played harlequin to crowded houses. His Lordship's eloquence is the most unimpassioned common place, and his reasoning the weakest logic, and these, in conjunction with the set of principles which he has at length fixed upon, have combined to make him as contemptible a burlesque upon the character of a statesman as one could well wish to contemplate . . .

Turn we to the Right Hon. Thomas Spring Rice; but no, the flea that typifies a useless activity does that gentleman a full measure of justice. His speech upon repeal (which lies in the tomb until the spirit of mercenary and penurious agitation shall summon it to life) was the one great action in his history. His career is a series of little doings, none of which are worthy of notice save in connexion with the evil which they may happen to cause. If he were placed in a humble situation, he would be an officious acquaintance, and a troublesome neighbour; and the selfsame propensities that would have made him so have now made him a dangerous and meddling statesman. By his side reposes the diplomatic son of Venus, the scented Palmerston, the Cupid of the Commons. What may be his Lordship's talents I know not, his genius seems to lie in perfumes and puppyism. His dandyism surpasses his diplomacy; there is nothing so correct as his tie; and his waistcoat is cut in the extreme of the mode. I can go no further in his eulogy, but I do know, and you know too, that as a statesman he has most egregiously blundered; that the results of his protracted official career have been disgrace abroad and dissatisfaction at home; and that all he has learned from a long and tenacious adherence to place under many masters has been to go through the decencies of his office, and duly and punctually to receive the salary thereunto attached.

ON THIS DAY

March 7, 1836

Any words printed about politicians between now and a general election will pale into insignificance by comparison with the language of the political hacks in the years following the Reform Bill of 1832. The unfortunate Premier was Lord Melbourne.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 7 1997

NEWS

City ordered to pay upon pensions

■ The City's most senior watchdog has been carpeted over "foot-dragging" over the £4 billion personal pensions misselling scandal, and been told by a Treasury minister to make rapid and decisive progress towards compensating the victims.

At least 600,000 people are still awaiting compensation, years after being wrongly advised to exchange generous occupational pension schemes for expensive personal plans. And the failure to deal with the problem could jeopardise attempts to privatise the state pension scheme ..... Page 1

Meat report attacked by Hogg

■ Douglas Hogg moved to discredit an unpublished and damning report on the British meat industry by suggesting that five of its six contributors were unhappy with the way it was written by its editor ..... Page 1

Picasso stolen

A painting by Picasso worth £700,000 was stolen from a London art gallery by a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun. He escaped in a taxi ..... Page 1

New mothers

The Mothers' Union is considering changing its name after a survey of members described the organisation as "fuddy duddy", "holier than thou" and over concerned with "tea-making and trivia" ..... Page 3

Political light-weights

The shedding of 4½ stone in nine months by a 15-stone Lady Steel rivals the dramatic weight loss achieved by her husband's political opponent, Lord Lawson, when he was on a diet, says Dr Stuttaford ..... Page 5

Royal Internet

The secret that cyberbuffs have spent a week trying to crack is now out. The Queen's address on the Internet was revealed as: *http://www.royal.gov.uk*. Page 6

Golden addresses

Estate agents say "golden postcodes" are emerging in Britain where the number of buyers far exceeds sellers and it is almost impossible to buy ..... Page 7

Back in time

For the first time since 1916, Horse Guards Parade has been returned to how it was when Canaletto first saw it ..... Page 8

Better zoos

Some zoos face closure under a Labour government. Elliot Morley, the Opposition spokesman on animal welfare, said regulations would be introduced to drive up standards ..... Page 9

Yeltsin is back

President Yeltsin served notice that he was back in control when he promised a Cabinet shake-up, economic reforms and a corruption crackdown ..... Page 12

Albania amnesty

The Albanian Government said that army operations in the South would be suspended and declared a two-day amnesty ..... Page 13

German demand

The German trade union movement is abandoning its uncritical support for economic and monetary union and will demand a delay in the single currency unless Bonn introduces major job-creation ..... Page 15

Refugee disaster

Since east Zaire's rebels overran their camps in South Kivu, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutu civilians have been wandering in the wilderness for four months ..... Page 16

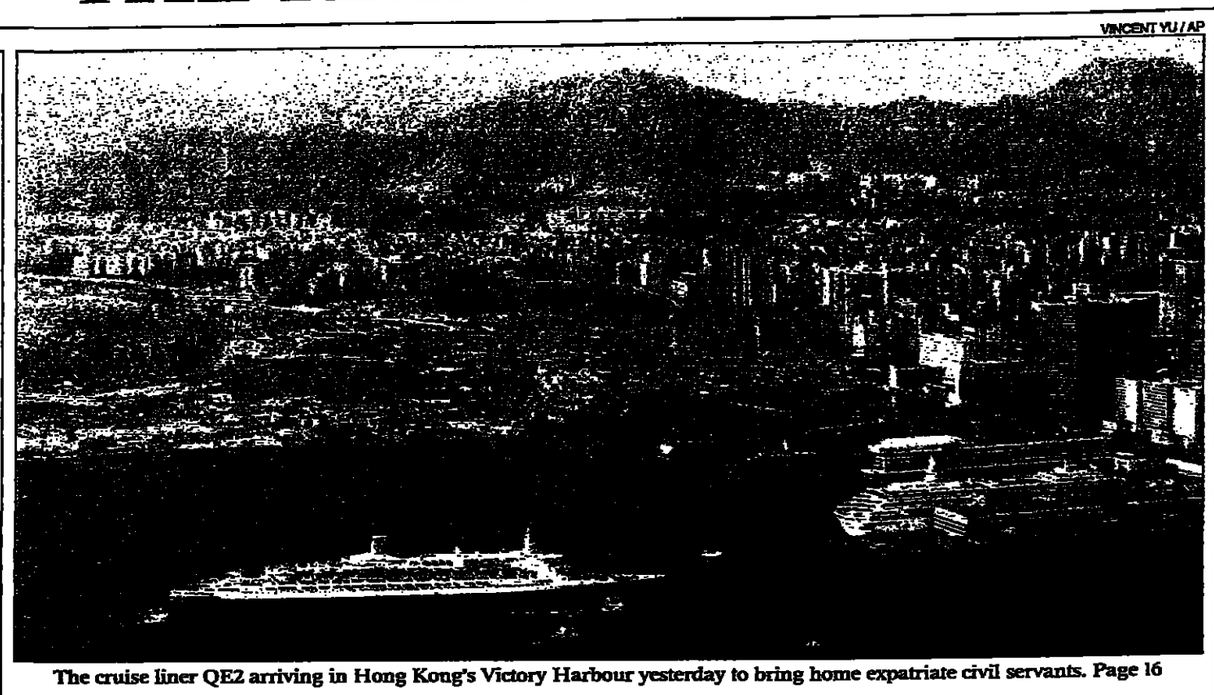
Clinton aide's cash

A former senior aide to President Clinton was paid $400,000 by a dozen companies, including the backers of a $2 billion property development in China .... Page 17

Burglar meets the Lord Chief Justice

■ A burglar who appeared at Liverpool Crown Court found himself up before the most senior judge in the land. Paul Eaton was brought before the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales who had decided to visit a criminal court. Eaton, 37, of Edge Hill, had been told to expect three to four years. Lord Bingham sent him down for double that ..... Page 1

VINCENT YU / AP



The cruise liner QE2 arriving in Hong Kong's Victory Harbour yesterday to bring home expatriate civil servants. Page 16

BUSINESS

Gas: One in eight gas customers in Kent and Sussex have contracted to switch their supplier away from British Gas before competition officially starts today ..... Page 25

John Lewis: Staff of the John Lewis Partnership are to share a bonus of £82 million after the Waitrose group rang up record profits in 1996 ..... Page 25

Treasury: Officials at the Treasury were criticised by a Commons committee for failing to alert ministers to price sensitive information in the run-up to the sale of Government shares in power companies Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 39.2 to 4399.3. Sterling rose from 98.1 to 98.4 after a rise from $1.6100 to $1.6114 and from DM2.7557 to DM2.7692 ..... Page 28

SPORT

Football: The vivacity, confidence and style with which they beat Porto is bound to increase the respect, and value, of Manchester United ..... Page 48

Motor racing: The troubles surrounding Damon Hill's move to TWR Arrows continued when the seat of his new car went missing on its way to Australia ..... Page 48

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros, Europe's Ryder Cup captain, is a shadow of the player who has won three Open championships and the Masters twice ..... Page 44

Racing: Richard Dunwoody was cleared to return to riding at Sandown today, 13 days after a fall at Kempton in which he fractured his sternum, and in time for the Cheltenham Festival ..... Page 42

ARTS

Feathered friends: The American stage adaptation of William Wharton's book *Birdy* is an offbeat but fascinating new transfer from the fringe to the West End ..... Page 33

Caitlin Moran: The music industry is a back-stabbing, second-guessing, drug-raddled behemoth with two faces, one nostril and a brain the size of a chicken's ..... Page 34

Mr Sandman: David Sinclair meets Mark Sandman, singer and songwriter with Morphine, once underground heroes and darlings of the rock critics ..... Page 35

All-conquering: Rodney Milnes reports from San Diego on Myron Fink's new opera, *The Conquistador*, with a towering central performance, 13 principals and a cast of more than 100 ..... Page 36

REX FEATURES



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ WEEKEND
Getting away from the prying lenses in Diana's Caribbean

■ MAGAZINE
Roger Boyes on why, after 14 years as German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl is still hungry for power

FEATURES

Everlasting Bloom: Claire Bloom tells Valerie Grove of her passion for Richard Burton that still lingers 40 years on ..... Page 18

Lamé army survivor: Fiona Russell Powell, a former member of ABC, ponders the chances of a 1980s pop band making a comeback in the 1990s ..... Page 18

The McAlpine memoirs: "For a period I was on the Arts Council and I have never disliked anything so much" ..... Page 19

EDUCATION

Could do better: Can the British education system do more for the gifted child? Labour's David Jamieson thinks that the answer is yes ..... Page 39

Teaching parents: When students go for their interviews at a university, any presence by the parents should always be tempered with discretion ..... Page 39

THE PAPERS

One can certainly understand that the American administration wants to free itself from all obligations in Bosnia, where nothing has been settled.
But that is certainly not a reason to shove onto the Europeans the duty of bringing to completion a problem that has proved insoluble up to this day

— La Libre Belgique

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Gardening experts Anne Swithinbank and Bill Chudziak celebrate the poppy family. *Bloom* (Channel 4, 8pm). **Review:** *Horizon* has Matthew Bond worrying about his weight ..... Page 47

Bugs in the system

After yet another policy error, the Ministry of Agriculture has exhausted the excuses ..... Page 21

Landslide dangers

Francis Pym warned of the undesirability of landslides before the 1983 election. His declared preference was for a majority of between 50 and 100. Many who hope for a moderate but responsive Labour government will agree ..... Page 21

Not vegetables

Labour's warning that it would introduce tougher licensing laws for zoos is not only a welcome recognition of new thinking about their role and organisation; it is a smart vote-catching pledge Page 21

COMMENT

TONY BLAIR

In abolishing Serps, which Peter Lilley says is affordable, the Government is denying people choice in their pension arrangements and removing the benchmark against which individuals can judge whether personal provision is best for them ..... Page 20

MATTHEW PARRIS

Transitional figures such as Gorbachev and Henry VII address a need which succeeding ages view as glaring. This (we therefore suppose) required for no great foresight. But our standpoint is the very terrain they have made safe for us. They made the obvious obvious ..... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Labour and the Liberal Democrats are too wary of each other. But this week's report is an important stage in creating a new progressive alliance ..... Page 10

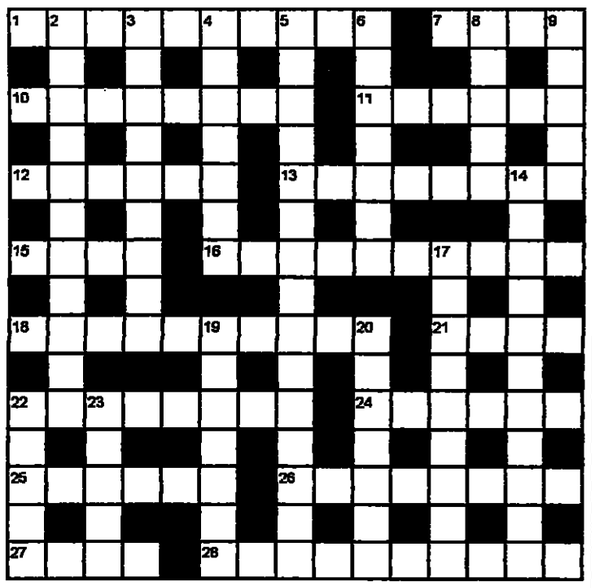
OBITUARIES

Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana; **Christopher Hohler**, art historian; **Robert Young**, orthopaedic surgeon ..... Page 23

LETTERS

Labour policies; football trauma; Margaret, Countess Attlee; Mary Magdalene; Vanunu plea; Israel's critics; Dowding medals; Channel 5 ..... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,421



ACROSS

1 Take red-eye? That could make one untrustworthy (3-2-5).
7 Burden, we hear, that could slow hunter down (4).
10 Drive from A to B with mini, perhaps (8).
11 Sprinkle 22*ac* in 15 (6).
12 Retired monarch's anxiety (6).
13 Attractive retreat (8).
15 Make an effort to look equal (4).
16 Take part in what sounds like most excellent initiative (10).
18 Scottish soldiers given jet to look after (5,5).
21 Outstanding Hindu teacher you ultimately needed? (4).
22 A little money they wanted, initially, to start church (8).
24 Saint — one hiding in a tree (6).
25 Get at champions, doubling twice (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,420

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GONER GLAMORISE
H U P E P N D E
TALLOW OFFENDER
S A R H A E
PURSE ILLOMENED
O A P L I E
TIMELAPSE SALEM
A O N C O A
PALISADE DRAWER
O A I R H E D C
INCOMMODE AROMA
N H O M R N W T
SCIENCE DETINUE

26 Benefit from mid-winter holiday (8).
27 Go off to take part in revolution (4).
28 Ordinary person taking constitutional steps (10).

DOWN

2 Feeble person, cowardly and pale-coloured (5,6).
3 Miscellaneous pieces I cooked with crabs (4-1-4).
4 Lack of art from France disturbed English native (7).
5 Film transported elsewhere by air (4,4,3,4).
6 He claims to be able to give better predictions (7).
8 Highly strung and over-the-top publicist? (5).
9 It points the way from a river bank (5).
14 Southern region unfortunately restricted by European country (11).
17 Doctor getting vital point right in the end (9).
19 Reaches conclusion weather's stormy? (5,2).
20 Husband in suit providing symbols of domesticity (7).
22 Celebrate by drinking some amaretto as this? (5).
23 Award zero mark (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Southampton, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0.16in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, 10.2hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Much of England and Wales should have a dry but increasingly cloudy night. Western coasts and hills will have drizzle or light rain at times and this will gradually edge east to give most places a cloudy morning with patchy drizzle or rain. It will be mild but windy in the West.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will start generally rather cloudy. Rain or drizzle already affecting Northern Ireland will spread east to all parts overnight. Clearer weather will reach western parts during the day, with frequent blustery showers, wintry on the hills. It will be windy, with gales especially in the West. The air will be *mild at first, turning cooler with the* clearer weather.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** thickening cloud with spots of drizzle later. Wind southeasterly, moderate, becoming southerly. Mild. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **W Midlands, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Wind southeasterly, light to moderate, becoming southerly moderate. Mild. Max 13C (55F).

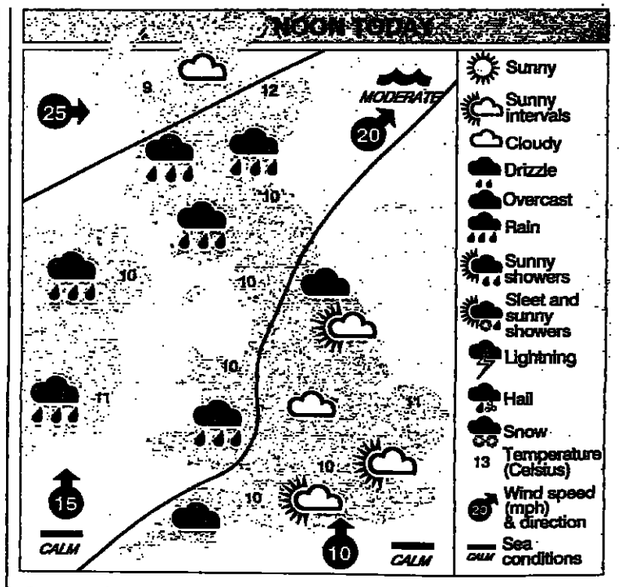
☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** cloudy with rain or drizzle. Wind southerly fresh, locally strong possibly gale in places. Mild. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** cloudy with rain or drizzle, locally heavy. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh, increasing fresh to strong. Mild. Max 12C (54F).

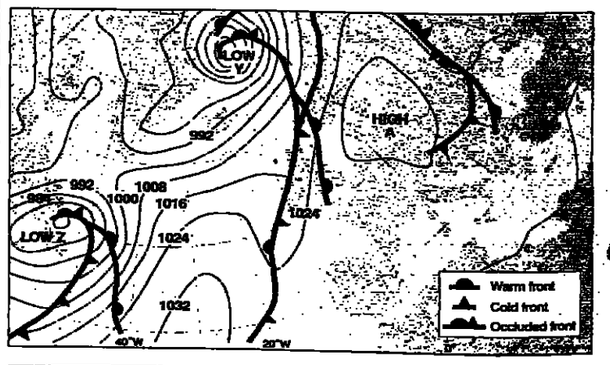
☐ **NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** cloudy with rain, heavy at times, turning clearer with showers, wintry on hills. Wind southerly gale, locally severe gale at times, becoming southwesterly and moderating. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** More rain from the northwest then a more settled spell.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low Z will deepen as it moves quickly northeast. Low Y will slowly fill as if drifts northeast. High A will expand west, its central pressure little changed



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X				
Anglesey	7.1	0.01	10	50	s
Aspatria	6.6	-	10	50	s
Aviemore	0.5	0.01	7	45	c
Belfast	1.9	-	9	48	s
Birmingham	8.1	0.12	11	52	s
Bognor R	9.2	0.01	13	55	s
Bournem'th	6.9	0.01	11	52	s
Bristol	10.0	0.01	13	55	s
Buxton	6.3	0.16	8	46	r
Cardiff	8.0	0.03	9	48	s
Clacton	8.6	0.01	8	46	s
Colwyn Bay	5.3	0.06	11	52	s
Cromer	9.2	0.07	8	46	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	9.4	0.04	10	50	s
Edinburgh	8.7	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	3.9	-	7	45	s
Exmouth	7.8	0.01	10	50	s
Falmouth	3.5	0.02	9	48	du
Fishguard	7.9	0.03	11	52	s
Folkestone	10.2	0.02	10	50	s
Glasgow	X				
Guernsey	3.8	0.06	12	54	s
Hastings	8.2	0.01	11	52	s
Hayling I.	9.0	0.03	12	54	s
Herne Bay	6.7	0.02	10	50	s
Hove	0.8	X	9	48	s
Hunstanton	X	0.07	9	48	s
Isle of Man	5.7	-	10	50	s
Jersey	3.9	0.11	12	54	s
Leeds	5.2	0.04	11	52	s
Lerwick	5.0	0.09	7	45	s
Leuchars	8.5	0.01	9	48	s
Littlehmptn	9.0	0.03	12	54	s
London	10.1	0.03	13	55	s
Lowestoft	9.2	0.04	7	45	s
Manchester	6.5	0.06	11	52	s
Minehead	8.9	-	13	55	s
Morecambe	5.5	0.04	10	50	s
Newcastle	X				
Newquay	4.8	0.02	11	52	s
Norwich	9.5	0.07	10	50	s
Oxford	8.6	0.06	12	54	s
Penzance	X	0.01	11	52	b
Poole	7.3	0.01	12	54	s
Ross-o-wye	7.8	0.01	12	54	s
Ryde	X				
Sidcombe	5.4	-	10	50	s
Sandown	6.6	0.04	10	50	s
Saunin Sind	9.9	-	13	55	s
Scarboro'	6.4	0.13	9	48	s
Shanklin	5.2	X	10	50	s
Shrewsbury	8.9	0.14	10	50	lg
Skegness	8.8	0.07	8	46	s
Southend	X				
Southport	5.0	0.01	10	50	c
Southsea	8.2	0.01	11	52	s
Stornoway	3.8	0.04	8	46	sh
Swanage	5.1	0.01	9	48	s
Teignmouth	6.9	-	10	50	s
Tenby	X				
Tiree	3.4	0.02	8	46	c
Torquay	6.6	0.01	11	52	s
Tynemouth	-	0.01	9	48	b
Valentia	5.2	0.07	11	52	s
West-s-mare	9.6	0.08	13	55	s
Weymouth	8.8	0.12	11	52	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	18	64	s	Majorca	17	63	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f	G'phagn	5	41	c	Malaga	17	63	s
Alex'dria	19	66	c	Dublin	9	48	r	Malta	20	68	s
Algiers	22	72	s	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Melb'rne	21	70	s
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	X	X	X
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	12	54	c	Miami	28	82	s
B Aires	27	81	c	Frankfurt	10	50	c	Milan	16	64	s
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	-1	30	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	15	59	c	Moscow	-1	30	c
Barbados	28	82	c	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Munich	10	50	s
Barcelona	14	57	c	Helsinki	5	41	s	N Delhi	23	73	s
Beirut	18	64	s	Hong K	21	70	f	N York	7	45	f
Belgrade	11	52	s	Innsbruck	11	52	f	Nairobi	30	86	s
Berlin	12	54	s	Istanbul	10	50	s	Naples	15	59	c
Bermuda	20	68	c	Jeddah	25	77	s	Nice	13	55	c
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	20	68	f	Oslo	4	39	f
Borde'x	13	55	c	L Angels	X	X	X	Paris	9	48	r
Brussels	11	52	s	L Palmas	24	75	s	Peking	15	59	f
Budapst	11	52	s	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Perth	30	86	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	21	70	s	Prague	9	48	f
Cape Tn	21	70	f	Locarno	17	63	s	Reykjavik	-3	27	sn
Ch'church	14	57	c	Luxembg	9	48	r	Rhodes	18	66	s
Chicago	2	36	f	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	30	86	f
Cologne	13	55	c	Madrid	18	64	s	Riyadh	22	72	s
Rome	15	59	c
S Fr'isco	11	52	f
S Paulo	28	82	f
Salzburg	11	52	f
Santiago	29	84	s
Seoul	10	50	f
Sing'por	32	90	s
St'kholm	8	46	s
Strasb'rg	13	55	f
Sydney	22	72	c
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Tenerife	25	77	s
Tokyo	15	59	s
Toronto	3	37	c
Tunis	19	66	s
Valencia	21	70	s
Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Venice	14	57	f
Vienna	9	48	s
Warsaw	4	39	c
Wash'ton	10	50	d
Wel'ngton	21	70	X
Zurich	15	59	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday X = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	-	-	12.28	7.0	Leith	00.52	5.3	13.10	5.4
Aberdeen	11.52	4.2	-	-	Liverpool	09.41	9.2	22.11	9.3
Avonmouth	05.33	12.9	18.03	13.1	Lowestoft	08.03	2.4	20.04	2.5
Belfast	09.27	3.4	22.00	3.4	Margate	10.36	4.5	22.49	4.6
Cardiff	05.19	11.9	17.49	12.1	Milford Haven	04.36	6.6	17.05	6.7
Devonport	04.01	5.2	16.36	5.2	Newquay	03.30	6.8	15.56	6.7
Dover	09.26	6.4	21.54	6.6	Oban	04.27	3.8	16.56	3.7
Dublin (N Wall)	10.02	4.1	22.36	4.2	Penzance	02.58	5.3	15.27	5.3
Falmouth	03.32	5.0	16.07	5.0	Portland	05.11	1.8	17.51	1.8
Greenock	11.09	3.3	23.27	3.2	Portsmouth	09.49	4.5	22.19	4.7
Harwich	10.21	3.9	22.44	3.9	Shoreham	09.39	6.1	22.10	6.3
Holyhead	08.48	5.5	21.19	5.5	Southampton	09.12	4.4	21.42	4.5
Hull (Albert Dl)	04.46	8.2	17.00	8.5	Swansea	04.41	9.2	17.11	9.4
Ilfracombe	04.23	8.8	16.51	9.0	Tees	02.04	5.0	14.19	5.2
King's Lynn	04.54	6.2	17.05	6.6	Walton-on-N	10.15	4.1	22.36	4.0

All times GMT Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.33 am
Sun sets: 5.52 pm
Moon sets 4.03 pm
Moon rises 5.30 am

London 5.52 pm to 6.31 am
Bristol 6.01 pm to 6.40 am
Edinburgh 6.00 pm to 6.47 am
Manchester 5.58 pm to 6.41 am
Penzance 6.14 pm to 6.51 am

New moon March 9

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Catering for gifted children: could do better
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FRIDAY MARCH 7 1997

Treasury attacked over power shares sale decision

BY ROBERT MILLER

TREASURY officials were criticised by a Commons committee yesterday for failing to alert ministers to price-sensitive information in the run-up to the sale of a second tranche of shares in the electricity generating companies.

The sale of National Power and PowerGen shares last year attracted more than one million private investors and raised almost £4 billion for the Treasury's coffers.

A report by the Committee of Public Accounts (PAC), headed by Robert Sheldon, said it shared "the Treasury's regret that ministers were not consulted before the final decision was taken by Treasury officials to proceed with the sale".

Officials exposed ministers to criticism after they failed to inform them of an impending price review by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry watchdog. On March 7 last year, the day after stock market trading began in the partly-paid shares of the two generators, Professor Littlechild duly announced that he intended to look again at the distribution price caps on the regional electricity companies.

After the electricity watchdog's announcement the share prices of National Power and PowerGen fell sharply to well below the flotation prices fixed the previous week. Ministers immediately faced charges of misleading investors. The MPs noted in their 22-page report "the view of the Treasury and their financial advisers that an announcement would not have had a significant impact on the generating companies' share prices".

At the time of the sell-off, however, Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry spokesman, called on the Serious Fraud Office to launch an official investigation into the sell-off. He alleged that the Government had been in possession of price-sensitive information that would have had an adverse effect on the eventual outcome of the sale.

George Staple, director of the SFO, then sought advice from a senior Queen's Counsel as to whether there was enough evidence to suspect "the commission of an offence involving serious or complex fraud in connection with the shares' sale". The SFO decided not to launch an investigation.

In yesterday's report the MPs endorsed "the agreement between the Treasury and regulators that, in future, the regulators will avoid making any announcements during a share sale and for a suitable period thereafter".

Penalties to enforce 48-hour working

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government, having lost a bitter battle against the European Union's 48-hour working week directive, plans severe sanctions, including financial penalties, against companies who breach the new law.

Engineering companies that are likely to be most affected claim that the proposed sanctions go well beyond those specified by Brussels.

Industry leaders said that having opposed the EU's 48-hour working time directive, the Government is now proposing penalties for failure to comply, which is not required under the directive.

Last year the Government failed to get the European Court to block the EU's directive, which sets maximum weekly hours as well as laying down specific legal requirements on holidays, shift and other patterns of work. Ministers and business insist the directive will push up costs, lead to job losses and reduce competitiveness. But following the court's decision, the Government is now consulting on how to implement it.

In little-noticed proposals, the Government is suggesting that companies that dismiss or take action against employees who assert rights under the directive to work for not more than 48 hours per week may be liable to pay compensation, either in general terms in relation to the nature of the company's offence, or to any directly attributable loss suffered by the employee.

Engineering companies told the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday that "the proposal to grant compensation for the infringement of the right is unnecessary and would introduce a penal element into civil remedies that is unjust".

Leaders of the EEF engineering employers said they were surprised that having opposed the directive so strongly, the Government was now proposing to enforce it in ways that the directive did not require. The directive says only that its provisions must be effectively enforced but does not specify how.

The EEF urged that the Government should set a limit of £11,300 to compensation awarded by an industrial tribunal for attributable loss, in line with current limits for dismissal on other grounds, and said that under the terms of the Government's proposals, employees could be awarded more if they were not dismissed than if they were.

The EEF also urged the Government to implement the terms of the directive as flexibly as possible. David Yeandle, head of employment affairs, said it was vital that companies were given as much flexibility as possible because the directive would impose extra burdens and costs without any discernible benefit to the industry.

The DTI said that the Government would now be studying the responses to the consultation before deciding its next move. No announcement is expected before the general election and any legislative move to implement the directive is unlikely before the end of the year.

PETER NICHOLLS



Positive comments from Sir Richard Sykes on long-term prospects helped the shares

Glaxo growth will stall as Zantac fades

BY ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME issued a warning yesterday that earnings growth will stall over the next two years as sales of Zantac, its best-selling ulcer treatment, plummet in the face of generic competition.

Zantac, once the world's best-selling drugs, loses US patent protection in July and Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, predicted that its sales could fall by as much as 80 per cent. Zantac's US sales last year declined 14 per cent to £1 billion, equivalent to 54 per cent of global Zantac sales and 23 per cent of Glaxo's overall revenue.

But Sir Richard predicted that Glaxo will return to double-digit growth by 1999, when new product sales gain momentum. "This year and next will not be spectacular in terms of growth," he said. "Beyond that, we are looking for significant growth in sales."

His positive comments on the company's longer-term outlook helped to lift the shares by 6p, to £10.49, in a rising market.

Shares in Glaxo had been on the wane in recent days on the back of fears that the strength of sterling and the dollar against European currencies will put pressure on earnings. It appears that many investors switched their holdings to SmithKline Beecham, whose shares closed up 23p, at 942½, just short of their high for the year.

Glaxo is counting on its new products. Last year, products launched in the past five years rose 50 per cent to £2 billion, equivalent to 24 per cent group sales.

Respiratory drugs, notably Serevent and Flixotide, were among the star performers in the new drugs category. Sales of the respiratory portfolio rose 11 per cent, to £1.76 billion, last year. Viral drugs such as Retrovir and Epivir, the anti-HIV treatments, were also strong.

Last year also marked the first full year of contributions from Wellcome, acquired for £9 billion in 1995.

The company reported 1996 pre-tax record profits of £2.96 billion, up 18 per cent, on sales of £8.34 billion, up 6 per cent. Sales excluding Zantac were up 14 per cent. Earnings per share were 56.7p, against 50.3p.

Debt fell £1.2 billion to £3.2 billion, putting the company in better position to fund another large acquisition. But Sir Richard said that Glaxo was more likely to grow organically. A final dividend of 19p, to be paid on May 20, lifts the total dividend 13 per cent to 34p.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4399.3	(+39.2)
Yield	3.65%	
FTSE All share	2145.25	(+16.93)
Nikkei	18041.33	(–232.18)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6980.87	(+35.02)*
S&P Composite	802.65	(+0.66)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5⅝%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	97⅝*	(97 7/16)
Yield	6.86%*	(6.83%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅝%	(6⅝%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	111⅞	(111 27/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6132*	(1.6138)
London:		
$	1.6121	(1.6098)
DM	2.7704	(2.7548)
FFr	9.3431	(9.2935)
SFr	2.4002	(2.3835)
Yen	196.00	(195.42)
£ Index	98.4	(98.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7163*	(1.7130)
FFr	5.7870*	(5.7800)
SFr	1.4868*	(1.4825)
Yen	121.20*	(121.25)
$ Index	104.2	(104.1)

Tokyo close Yen 121.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) $19.20 ($19.10)

GOLD

London close $352.25 ($352.00)

* denotes midday trading price

Suffering

Newly merged Royal & SunAlliance suffered from integration costs, exchange rate movements and provisions against environmental claims. Pre-tax profits fell to £648 million from £1 billion in the previous year.

Page 27

Recovery

Arjo Wiggins Appleton shares rose after the paper maker surprised the City with the strength of its recovery. Pre-tax profits rose 97 per cent to £134 million.

Page 30

Cheer on rates lifts markets

BY JANET BUSH

SHARES jumped to a record high in London for the third successive day. Investors were cheered by a solid performance on Wall Street and a feeling that UK interest rates will be left on hold for now. The FT-SE 100 index closed 39.2 points higher, at 4,399.3.

The mood in stock markets across Europe was buoyant after Wednesday's suggestion from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that he would not push for a rise in US interest rates to deflate share values.

In London, Wednesday's monetary meeting brought cheer, with base rates unchanged. Yesterday's statement from the Confederation of British Industry that rates could be left on hold for the first half of 1997. The CBI's latest distributive trades survey yesterday showed a slowing in retail sales growth in February.

Sterling ended at 98.4 on its effective index.

Chancellor's cheer, page 26
Markets, page 28

British Gas hit by defections

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ONE in eight gas customers in Kent and Sussex has contracted to switch supplier before competition officially starts today, the biggest dent yet in the former British Gas monopoly.

TransCo, the BG company that runs gas pipelines, said that 112,375 out of about 900,000 customers in the latest pilot area for competition have asked to desert Centrica, the new British Gas company.

The vast majority of defectors have been signed by suppliers linked to the local water and electricity monopolies. ScottishPower, which owns Southern Water, claims more than 50,000 converts, 5.6 per cent of the market. Beacon Gas, a joint venture between Seeboard and Amoco, claims 40,000 or 4.4 per cent.

A further 11 competitors have only 2.2 per cent between them so far. This again suggests that Centrica will be faced with a series of local challenges rather than national competitors.

Competition is accelerating in Dorset and Avon, where the market was opened a month ago. During the past two weeks, the number of customers switching has doubled to 31,000, or 6.2 per cent of the market. In the South West, where competition has been running almost a year, Centrica has lost about 19 per cent of its 500,000 customer base.

Ofgas, the industry's regulator, is to consult competitors and others over an offer by Centrica to direct debit customers in the South West of an extra 6 per cent discount. This is double the direct debit discount available on its national tariff, but still leaves British Gas as a relatively expensive competitor. Rivals say British Gas should not be allowed to cut prices.

Centrica may only offer differential prices if competition has been established in an area.

Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Gas Supply, said: "This is a clear signal that competition and choice is what people want." The Gas Consumers Council said it was pleased that almost 250,000 customers had now deserted British Gas.

Joining single currency 'good for homeowners'

HOMEOWNERS would benefit greatly from low and stable interest rates if Britain joined a single European currency, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said yesterday (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Publishing a report on a single currency's impact on the UK mortgage market, the CML said that monetary union could hurt borrowers if it caused rates to rise, but added that the opposite outcome was more likely.

However, the report's authors, Duncan Maclennan and Mark Stephens, of the University of Glasgow, said that monetary union would force north European countries, including the UK, to reform social housing and increase private renting in order to increase the mobility of their workforces.

Consistently low interest rates would also make it cheaper for lenders to supply fixed-rate mortgages, the report said. According to CML figures, four in five new borrowers choose variable-rate mortgages. However, Mr Stephens said that borrowers were unlikely to see the attraction of fixing rates in a low-rate environment.

Pennington, page 27

The Perfect Travelling Companion ...

THE DALVEY VOYAGER CLOCK

Time for one last cocktail as the Imperial Airways flying boat waits at the jetty for the flight to Mombasa ...

Whatever your destination, you can recapture the romance of travelling in style with this elegant and reliable travel alarm clock.

ELEGANT AND SLIM, LIGHTWEIGHT AND ROBUST

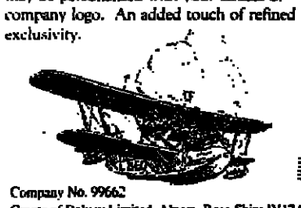
Crafted in Scotland by Grants of Dalvey from stainless steel to the highest standards of workmanship, and incorporating a quartz alarm movement, The Dalvey Voyager Clock is superbly polished to give a magnificent finish which will not tarnish.

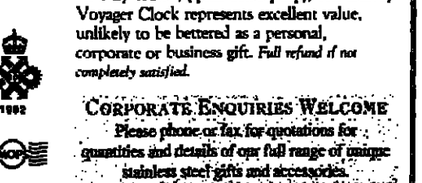
STYLISH AND FUNCTIONAL

The Dalvey Voyager Clock is decorated in the style of the golden age when travel was an adventure ... the age of flying boats and Grand Tours, colonial postings and luxury liners ... to create an elegant, yet functional, timepiece.

PERSONALISED FOR ADDED EXCLUSIVITY

In keeping with all Dalvey products, the case is emblazoned with a solid brass badge which may be personalised with your initials or company logo. An added touch of refined exclusivity.





Shown smaller than actual size: 7cm diameter

EXCELLENT VALUE

At only £52.95, (plus £1.95 p&p), The Dalvey Voyager Clock represents excellent value, unlikely to be bettered as a personal, corporate or business gift. *Full refund if not completely satisfied.*

CORPORATE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Please phone or fax for quotations for quantities and details of our full range of unique stainless steel gifts and accessories.

Company No. 99662
Grants of Dalvey Limited, Alness, Ross-Shire IV17 0XT

Please return your order today or phone 01349 884111 / fax 01349 884100 if you prefer to pay by credit card.

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To: Grants of Dalvey Ltd., FREEPOST 1032, Alness, Ross-Shire IV17 0BR Phone: (01349) 884111 Fax: (01349) 884100 *(24 hour service)*

Please send me — TOTAL £

..... Voyager Clock(s) at £52.95 each .....
Engraving at £4.50 each *(Max. 3 letters)* .....
Post and packing at £1.95 each .....

☐ I enclose my cheque for TOTAL £.....
☐ Please charge my Access/Visa/Amex Acct. No.

Name on Card .....
Signed ..... Exp. Date ...../.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....
Address .....
.....
..... Postcode .....
Daytime phone No .....
Delivery: please allow 28 days

TIM45

John Lewis staff to share £82m bonus

BY CLARE STEWART

STAFF of the John Lewis Partnership are to share a bonus of £82 million after the Waitrose supermarket and department store group rang up record profits in 1996.

Its 36,000 employees, known as partners, will each receive a 20 per cent bonus payment equivalent to about 10 weeks' pay. About 83 per cent of each bonus will be tax-free. The bonus payments were fuelled by a 45 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £217 million in the year to January 25, with sales rising 12 per cent to £3.2 billion.

Stuart Hampson, chairman, said: "We are extremely pleased and it is a tremendous result. It owes much to the fact that both divisions are progressing well at the same time."

He acknowledged the assistance of "a better following breeze from economic conditions", but added that the record results did not equate to a consumer boom, with customers continuing to spend cautiously "and with an eye for value".

The 23 department stores increased sales 13 per cent to £1.57 billion. Sales at Waitrose rose 11 per cent to £1.53 billion in a competitive market and flat prices. In spite of being "hit by ricochets from the crossfire," between the market's most aggressive players, Waitrose had no plans to change tack, said Mr Hampson. "We will concentrate on what we do best – fine food and service." He added that there were no plans to follow other supermarkets in offering banking services.

Sales in the first five weeks of the current financial year rose 6.8 per cent overall, with department stores leading the way with a rise of 9.2 per cent. With virtually no inflation in food prices currently, Waitrose sales showed slower growth, rising 5.2 per cent.

BTR cuts payout as earnings fall 13%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BTR, the diversified industrial company, said yesterday that it was confident of selling 25 more non-core businesses by the end of this year as it completes its restructuring programme.

BTR, which has about 1,000 businesses across the globe, made disposals valued at £1.75 billion last year — including Dunlop Slazenger and Tilcon Aggregates — with the target of making total sales of £2.3 billion.

The disposal programme, coupled with a poor performance in the automotive division, led to a 13 per cent fall in full-year profits before tax to £1.3 billion. The company also confirmed that it would cut its total dividend to 9.6p from 14.69p in 1995.

Exceptional charges totalled £462 million during 1996 but the company added that it did not expect to make any further charges this year.

Shares in the company rose 7p to 259½p, with the City comforted that the restructuring process is progressing well. Analysts were also pleased by the company's comments that it did not expect to ask for any new equity and may take some warrants out of circulation.

In another break with the company's past, BTR announced that Alan Jackson will step down as a non-executive director in May. Mr Jackson has previously served as managing director of BTR Nylex and was chief executive of the company until the end of 1995.

Alain Gomez, the former chairman of Thomson-CSF, and Simon Robertson, the recently departed chairman of Kleinwort Benson, have been appointed as non-executive directors.

Profits from the automotive division fell by 11 per cent to £131 million. BTR said it had been hit by difficult trading conditions in Europe and South America and start-up costs for new sealing and antivibration systems business in North America.

Profits in the polymeric products division also slipped back by 12 per cent to £99 million.

BTR's other main divisions — which include packaging and meters, building products and specialist engineering — all improved, with profits in the process control division increasing by 10 per cent to £181 million.

The company said that the strength of the pound could knock £50 million off profits this year, if it remains at current levels. But BTR emphasised that the loss was only a translation effect as most of its businesses manufacture and trade in local currencies.

Ian Strachan, chief executive, added that underlying performance is expected to improve steadily in 1997.

Gearing declined from 108 per cent to 80 per cent at the year end. The final dividend of 5.6p is payable on June 2.

Pennington, page 27

Chancellor backed by CBI survey

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GROWTH in high street sales eased in February, according to the Confederation of British Industry, which said its latest distributive trades survey fully supported the decision this week by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to keep base interest rates unchanged.

The latest CBI study of more than 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and motor trading showed a net balance of 24 per cent of retailers reporting an increase in sales volumes.

The figure marks a sharp fall from the previous month's total of 36 per cent, and is considerably worse than expectations. It compares poorly, too, with a net balance of 30 per cent in February last year.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said price competition was still "intense", adding: "With the downward pressure on price rises set to continue, this survey provides good news for inflation."

Mr Eperon said that the figures "absolutely" backed the Chancellor's decision on rates, saying: "There is no need to be concerned about interest rates."

DES JENSON



C. K. Chow, left, chief executive of GKN, and David Turner, finance director, yesterday

GKN profits may all go to pay US damages

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GKN announced record results yesterday but pre-tax profits of £360 million could be wiped out by damages awarded against the UK manufacturer by a US court.

Franchisees of Meineke Mufflers, the GKN subsidiary, are seeking $740 million and have already won their case in principle. A judge has yet to set the level of damages.

If the full punitive damages were awarded, they would be roughly equivalent to the 1996 profits. But GKN has amassed £528 million in net cash with which to pay for Meineke's bungled franchises. GKN did not include a provision for the damages in its 1996 accounts.

C. K. Chow, the new chief executive, said: "It is not possible to quantify the Meineke damages at the moment. But it is our intention to include them if a judgment comes before the accounts are finalised and printed. There will definitely be no impact on the dividend."

Mr Chow, who started at GKN in January, could not confirm that the armoured vehicle production in Telford, where 40 per cent of staff were made redundant recently, would survive. Keeping it open was "one option".

In the year to December 31, GKN made pre-tax profits of £362.8 million (£322.4 million). Earnings were 65p (53.9p) a share and the dividend is 26.5p (24p). Mr Chow said that all core businesses made good progress.

He is keen to make further progress in the consolidation of the European defence industry. The Westland helicopter division is co-operating with Agusta of Italy and is looking for more partners.

R-R pushed into red by £263m special charge

BY OLIVER AUGUST

ROLLS-ROYCE was plunged into the red by a £263 million exceptional charge relating to its ailing steam power generation division, the group said yesterday. It is trying to sell the businesses involved, Parsons Power Generation and International Combustion.

John Rose, chief executive, said that he was confident a buyer could be found. Siemens and GEC are both believed to be involved in the negotiations.

In the year to December 31, Rolls-Royce made a £28 million pre-tax loss, compared with a profit of £175 million. It earned an operating profit of £242 million from continuing operations, compared with £178 million the previous year. Earnings before exceptionals grew to 12.7p a share from 7.94p, and the dividend was raised from 5p to 5.3p, with a final of 3.3p. The order book grew to £7 billion (£6.2 billion).

Mr Rose said that plans for the Trent 900 engine were ready and the group was waiting for orders from airframe manufacturers. The engine, a variation on smaller Trent engines, was conceived as the power plants for superjumbos designed by Boeing and Airbus. But Boeing's decision to withdraw from developing a stretched 747 has stalled the development. Mr Rose said: "We are a long way from investing any money in it." The necessary investment is expected to exceed $500 million.



John Rose: confident

Trent engine sales continued apace with the BR710 engine, developed jointly with BMW, being chosen for the RAF Nimrod 2000 aircraft. Engine sales gains and higher spares sales were partially offset by the reduction of deliveries to Fokker, the collapsed Dutch aircraft-maker.

Military sales represented 33 per cent of aerospace sales, with the most significant factor behind the improvement of military sales being the higher level of deliveries for Saudi Arabia's Tornados, and improved spares sales despite shrinking defence budgets.

Tempus, page 28

Bolton may join Stock Exchange

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BOLTON WANDERERS, one of football's founding clubs, is set to become the latest football team to join the stock market after Mosaic Investments confirmed it was in takeover talks with the club.

Mosaic is likely to value Bolton at about £25 million. Shares in Mosaic, which has net assets valued at 29p a share, were suspended at 51½p. It said the talks are at an early stage.

Bolton are currently runaway leaders of the Nationwide First Division and promotion to the Premiership would significantly improve the club's financial position.

Shares of Manchester United, meanwhile, jumped 10p to 657½p after victory over Porto virtually guaranteed United a place in the semi-finals of the European Champions Cup. Analysts said the result could add about £2.5 million to club profits. A berth in the final is likely to boost profits further.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Rail sells Railpart to Unipart

THE completion of the privatisation of British Rail came a step closer yesterday when Railpart, its train spares subsidiary, was sold to Unipart, the automotive accessories supplier, for an undisclosed sum. The company, based in Doncaster, which has turnover of £237 million and 270 staff, is the last business in BR's Central Services division to be sold. It supplies 83 depots across the country with traction and rolling stock parts for freight and passenger trains.

In January Unipart backed a management buyout of National Railway Supplies, which specialises is supplying and servicing signalling and railway communications equipment. Frank Nigriello, communications director of Unipart, said the company saw a business opportunity in the long-term rejuvenation of the rail industry in Britain and Europe. "These deals give us a very strategic position in the parts business of the railway sector," he said.

Dimplex closes factory

DIMPLEX, the electrical heating manufacturer, is closing its Southampton factory with the loss of 250 jobs. Production is being moved to Portadown in Northern Ireland where a factory belonging to its parent company, the Glen Dimplex Group, will take over. The company blames a 60 per cent drop in demand for its electrical heating appliances since 1990 for the need to "rationalise". The administration, sales and marketing departments will remain in Southampton.

United Gas chief to go

ROGER TURNER, co-founder and managing director of United Gas, is to leave the company in early April. His departure comes 12 months after United Gas was acquired by UtiliCorp United, the Missouri energy group. Mr Turner, who no longer has any interest in United Gas, will act in an advisory capacity. After Mr Turner's departure United Gas will be headed by Chuck Dempster, the chairman and chief executive officer of UtiliCorp UK.

Virtual business launch

THE world's first virtual business park is launched today, aiming to link British businesses with a global export market. TradeUK is designed to provide an electronic directory of UK export companies for overseas groups looking to buy British products or services. Services include electronic mail and research facilities. UK companies can register free of charge. TradeUK has been set up by ICL and sponsored by the DTI. It can be found at http://www.tradeuk.com.

Teddington Studios sold

PEARSON, the media group, yesterday sold Teddington Studios, to Barnes Trust Media for £12 million. Teddington was inherted by Pearson when it acquired Thames Television in 1992. It provides facilities for the production of several BBC, ITV and Channel 4 programmes. The acquisition, backed by £3.9 million of capital from Gresham Trust, will make Barnes the UK's largest independent media facilities operator. Pearson will continue to use Teddington to produce programmes.

Shoprite dividend plan

SHOPRITE, the former supermarket chain that now runs a dozen grocery stores in the Isle of Man, is seeking court permission to pay dividends again after it returned to the black. Underlying profits were £2.02 million (£106,000 loss), lifted by rental income from its property assets and proceeds from the island's Mercedes dealership. It is now seeking a court order to write off the deficit on its profit and loss account against its share premium account.

Interim slip at Brierley

BRIERLEY INVESTMENTS, which is based in New Zealand, suffered a decline in first-half profits to NZ$116 million (£40 million), from NZ$170 million in the first half of the previous year. Investment profits fell NZ$75 million (£26 million). The interim dividend is held at NZ4 cents a share. The flotation of Britain's Thistle Hotels enabled the group to reduce its stake from 70 to 46 per cent. It acquired 20 per cent of the John Fairfax newspaper group last December.

Royal Bank venture

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has launched a new venture to fill the funding gap between debt and equity in management buyouts, buy-ins and leveraged acquisitions. RBS Mezzanine, which will be backed by initial funding from the bank worth £150 million, could look for outside partners to form co-ventures in the future.

Crest sets record on wave of transactions

CREST, the electronic settlement system for share deals, processed a record 132,000 transactions on February 24 after a wave of securities were transferred from the old, paper-based method (Adam Jones writes).

CrestCo, the operator, said 75 to 80 per cent of bargains are now consistently being settled on the intended date. Some larger users of the system are averaging 85 per cent. Paul Symons, of CrestCo, said he expected the figure to slowly increase having stabilised over the past two months, although there is no stated target.

He said: "You're never going to get 100 per cent in a quote-driven market."

The Stock Exchange issued a formal notice on Tuesday that Talisman, the old system, will definitely wind down on the planned date, April 11.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.99	Malta	0.859	0.604
Austria Sch	20.36	18.86	Netherlds Gld	3.247	3.017
Belgium Fr	59.72	55.42	New Zealand $	2.44	2.22
Canada $	2.308	2.148	Norway Kr	11.73	10.93
Cyprus Cypr	0.856	0.800	Portugal Esc	287.50	269.00
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.27	S Africa Rd	7.76	6.96
Finland Mkk	8.81	8.16	Spain Pta	244.50	227.50
France Fr	9.69	9.04	Sweden Kr	12.94	12.14
Germany Dm	2.91	2.70	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.33
Greece Dr	450	424	Turkey Lira	206300	194300
Hong Kong $	13.11	12.11	USA $	1.710	1.580
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00			
Israel Shk	5.71	5.06			
Italy Lira	2872	2697			
Japan Yen	209.90	193.90			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

The European Parliament announces that for administrative reasons it is repeating the open invitation to tender for the supply and installation of furniture and artifical plants for the European Information Centre (library and similar services) in Espace Leopold Complex in Bruxelles, including counters, shelving, tables, seats, armchairs, sundry office furniture and office accessories such as coat racks, waste-paper containers and trolleys, etc.

The tender notice was sent to the Official Journal on February 5th.

Further information may be obtained from M. Dino CANTOREGGI, Head of the Technical Service of the Buildings Division in Bruxelles — FAX (+ 32) (0) 2 2844966, refering to "Epicentre".

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRITTON nee SMITH, LILIAN GRACE BRITTON nee SMITH WIDOW late of North Kensington, London W10 died at Hammersmith, London W6 on 9 September 1996 (Estate about £7,500)
BUTLER, MARJORIE LILIAN BUTLER SPINSTER late of St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex died there on 19 August 1996 (Estate about £22,000)
CUTTING, WALTER GEORGE CUTTING late of Norwich, Norfolk died there on 16th July 1994 (Estate about £16,000)
DODD, MARGARET FRANCES JOAN DODD SPINSTER late of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire died there on 20 June 1996 (Estate about £65,000)
GIBBS, GEORGE EDMUND GIBBS late of Barry, South Glamorgan died there on 2 February 1996 (Estate about £3,500)
LEWINGTON, ARTHUR WILLIAM LEWINGTON late of Shanklin, Isle of Wight died there on 22 December 1995 (Estate about £20,000)
LUCKETT nee CHAMBERLIN, RUBY MARY LUCKETT nee CHAMBERLIN WIDOW late of Highgate, London N6 died there on 6 December 1994 (Estate about £6,100)
MCKIMM, CHARLES MCKIMM late of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire died there on 21 November 1996 (Estate about £95,000)
PREST nee LAKE, BLANCHE ELLEN PREST nee LAKE WIDOW late of Norwich, Norfolk died there on 12 April 1995 (Estate about £5,500)
REED, FRANCIS HENRY REED late of Bristol, Avon died there on 28 November 1995 (Estate about £13,000)
SIMPER nee WYATT, LOUISE FLORENCE SIMPER nee WYATT WIDOW late of Chippenham, Wiltshire died there on 29 September 1996 (Estate about £6,000)
STEWART formerly STRUDWICK nee ELMES, JOAN STEWART formerly STRUDWICK nee ELMES WIDOW late of Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex died there on 1 January 1997 (Estate about £150,000)
VILLERS otherwise VILLIERS, GEORGE VILLERS otherwise George VILLIERS late of Westminster, London W1 died there on 13 September 1996 (Estate about £54,000)
WINSTANLEY, GERALD WINSTANLEY otherwise GERARD WINSTANLEY late of Bicester, Oxfordshire died there on 3 October 1995 (Estate about £8,300)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFIT SCHEME
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that the Trustees of the Scheme are winding up the Scheme.
Any former employees of any Company trading as Jackson-Stops & Staff who believe that they were or are or should have been members of the Scheme and who are not receiving a pension from the Scheme or who have not received announcements from the Trustees of the Scheme are required to write to Mr. Andrew Heaton at Watson Wyatt Partners, 8th Floor, Cardinal House, 18/20 St Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, M3 2LY before 31 March 1997 to make a claim under the Scheme.
Claimants should provide their full name, address, date of birth, the period during which they worked for any such Company and any documents supporting their claim.
After 31 March 1997 the Trustees may distribute the assets of the Scheme among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have prior notice and will not, as regards the assets so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim they do not then have notice.
THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCHEME

LEGAL NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Bryanston School Amenities Fund
Scheme variation Scheme
Reference: 1014776(CDXT)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the Scheme can be seen for next month at Parker Bullen, 45 Castle St, Salisbury, Wiltshire or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, Woodfield house, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the reference above.
Parker Bullen, Solicitors
Dated the 5th day of March 1997

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown
Scheme for regulating the charity
Reference: RM/36455/8C
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Old School House, Shrewton, Wiltshire SP3 4DB or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the reference above.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878 OR FAX:0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00760 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF WAFER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 11th February 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £12,500,000 to £2,058,334.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday, the nineteenth day of March 1997.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 19th day of February 1997
Messrs Vizards
42 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JL
Tel : 0171-405 6302
Fax : 0171-405 6248
DX : LDE 189
Ref : 223/7060-2
Solicitors for the above-named Company

THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
Minute approved by the Court
The capital of The Restaurant Partnership plc was by virtue of a Special Resolution of the Company and with the sanction of an Order of the High Court of Justice dated 5th February 1997 reduced from £3,000,000 divided into 1,000,100 ordinary shares of £1.00 each and 1,999,800 ordinary shares of £0.50 each and 10,000,000 ordinary shares of £0.10 each to £649,995 divided into 12,999,900 ordinary shares of £0.50 each.
At the date of the registration of this Minute 9,002,314 of the said shares have been issued and are deemed to be fully paid up and the remainder are unissued.

LEGAL NOTICES

ALEC BERMAN & SON LIMITED (IN RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the office of Morley & Scott at, Lynton House, 7-12 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LT on Wednesday 12th March 1997 at 3.15pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the company's registered office, Hovenden House, 19 Boundary Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4EF not later than 12 noon on 11th March 1997.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Hovenden House, 19 Boundary Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4EF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected free of charge, at Lynton House, 7-12 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LT between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the date of meeting stated above.
DATED THIS 4.3.1997
A Berman, Director

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in proceedings before the Newcastle County Court BETWEEN ROBERT GRAHAM BALMER and JOAN BALMER, Plaint Number 94 D 1846 application has been made by the said Joan Balmer for the sale of property situate at 21 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne and that on the 10th day of February 1997 the Newcastle County Court directed that the property situate at 21 Moor Place aforesaid be advertised for sale and that further directions will be given by the Newcastle County Court on Joan Balmer's Application on Monday the 10th day of March 1997 at 11.50 o'clock.
It is requested that the Petitioner in the above cause namely Robert Graham Balmer formerly of 21 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne on issuing of his whereabouts do contact Mr. Michael Smith of the Mincoff Science & Gold, Keenlyn House, 5 Osborne Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE2 2AA, telephone number 0191 281 6151, Fax number 0191 281 8069 as a matter of urgency concerning the beforementioned Application.

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☐ Housing market defies rules of economics ☐ BTR share price may be on the turn ☐ Unnecessary deluge of trading news

Estate agents cry 'full house'

☐ THIS is a very funny housing market, and one that seems to defy all the normal rules of economics. But what it is not is a booming housing market.

Price rises are relatively modest. Earlier this week the Halifax actually scaled back its annualised figure for house price inflation for the second month in a row, down to 6.8 per cent for the year to February compared with 8.4 per cent in 1996.

The number of housing transactions is running below any year in the 1980s. Last year there were 1.24 million; the Council of Mortgage Lenders expects 1.35 million this year and a further 100,000 more in 1997. In 1988 2.15 million people moved home.

Yesterday Black Horse Agencies, owned by Lloyds TSB, put out a report that was half a rallying cry to new customers and half a profits warning. There is a desparate shortage of homes for sale. Nationally, there are nine noses pressed up against estate agents' windows for every house. Negative equity is disappearing, especially in the South East. Never been a better time to buy . . . oh, you can guess the rest.

In economics, supply follows demand. In commodity markets, a shortage prompts producers to build more plant. As they act in an unco-ordinated way, there is soon a glut of plastics or whatever, and producers start to close their older, less profitable plant. This causes a shortage again. Houses should be the same, builders stimulated into action by rising prices.

There are two special factors. One is planning law, preventing houses being built where most people want to live, the leafy suburbs or the green belt. The second is rising demographic demand, the much-quoted government figure of 4.4 million more homes needed over the next two decades.

Given these, the normal economic model would have house prices spiralling until enough potential customers are priced out of the market. But this is not happening; the advent of the spring selling season has seen startling price rises in some areas, especially those affected by City bonuses and demand from overseas, but these are not necessarily going to continue.

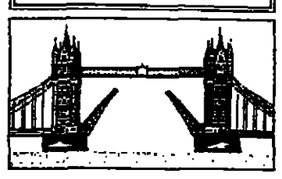
What is holding prices back is shortage of lending finance. Banks and building societies have learnt their lesson: no 100 per cent loans this time, no silly multiples on salaries. People cannot chase prices higher forever. But they are unwilling to downgrade their expectations, so many are losing out. Buying a home is not becoming much more expensive, but it is getting ever more difficult.

Eventually, prices will have to rise. Given low wage price inflation, the only way this can happen is for lenders to accept that low inflation and interest rates mean they can risk making higher advances to their customers, the logical extension of the CML's musings on the euro yesterday. But the line between this and a runaway housing market is a fine one.

Strachan delivers the goods

☐ IAN STRACHAN at BTR must be wondering what he has to do to pull the shares out of the miserable trough they have occupied since June. Mind you, if he has doubts, his positive demeanour yesterday was giving no hint of it. But even the merest whisper of a share buyback does sound like desperation.

PENNINGTON



Even after yesterday's rise, BTR shares are just 30p above their low for the past year. Catching BTR on the turn has been a perilous task, but there are at last signs that the bottom may have been reached. Unpopularity has been as much to do with its status as an unfashionable conglomerate as with any innate faults, but that status has simply given the market no reason to invest.

Instead, Mr Strachan has ploughed ahead on delivering the promises on restructuring he made a year ago. The disposal programme is 75 per cent over, and the group is well on target for 15 per cent of sales in emerging markets by the year 2000. But most interesting for now, and particularly piquant on the day that BTR announced the departure of Alan Jackson, one of the architects of its former policy of growth by pumping out new equity, is Mr Strachan's views on future capital needs.

BTR was one of the market's heaviest warrants addicts. This form of share issue, promising shareholders new equity in future at a price higher than the current one, relies on a share price that can be expected to rise without interruption, which is why it has fallen out of favour in these toppy markets. Mr Strachan has not only said that there will be no more such issues, he is putting in place the ability to buy the outstanding two tranches, pretty well worthless at 19¼p and 4¼p, or some of the ordinary share capital.

So BTR will operate within its existing finances, funding acquisitions out of normal cashflow and the proceeds of disposals. Interest cover was a respectable seven times last year so the company should not be stretched, but it all smacks of caution, which the market likes from the new BTR. Mr Strachan now needs to deliver the sustainable profit growth he has promised. This could be the year the shares come back in favour.

Make it a day to remember

☐ PUBLIC companies with combined market capitalisations of more than £70 billion chose yesterday to present their latest financial statements — and that is disregarding John Lewis, a business of more than passing interest to retail analysts. This is equal to 7 per cent of the total value of the London stock market. There were ten companies alone with market values of more than £1 billion.

Next Thursday will be the same. They seem to like Thursdays — the best explanation is that it allows time for all the executives to jet in from around the world without spoiling their weekends and then to hold a formal board meeting. Wednesday is almost as good a bet. Friday is almost universally shunned, and Monday is unpopular. The result is that on certain days every spring and autumn, and there are only about a dozen during each reporting season, the stock market is deluged with trading statements. There are attempts to ensure the main players in a given sector do not report on the same day to prevent analysts becoming overloaded, but this does not always work — yesterday saw figures from BTR and Cookson Group. This year has been made worse than most by the early arrival of Easter.

Banks and oil companies manage to report within two months of the end of the trading period. Manufacturers take longer, for some reason, and they insist on monopolising one or two days a week. They then whinge piteously about how nobody pays them enough attention. The solution is in their hands.

A spin-doctor writes

☐ PICTURE the scene at last week's Cabinet meeting. "Pensions," says someone. "Re-arrange the pension system. At least it shows we're doing *something* different. Yours, I think, Peter." "But the last time the pension companies went on the rampage there was no end of trouble. City regulation's yours, Ken." "True. Tell you what. We'll hand out a kicking at the same time. I'll get Ange on to it pronto."

Ladbroke keeps an eye on casino bid battle

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming company, admitted yesterday that it was watching the £180 million bid battle between London Clubs International and Capital Corporation "closely".

Ladbroke, which has been linked with a potential takeover offer for the two London casino operators, made it clear that it already had access to bank funds if it decided to launch a bid.

A return to form in the betting division helped Ladbroke to lift full-year profits to £163 million before tax and exceptional items.

Profits in the betting and gaming division rose 46 per cent to £85 million. Ladbroke said that new products, such as Lucky Choice and Forty Nines, had helped the retail betting operations to fight back against the National Lottery.

Vernons, the pools business, also improved profits although turn-

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over dropped a further 30 per cent. But casino profits fell back because of losses at Maxims.

Hilton International increased profits 7 per cent to £160 million led by a strong UK market. In London, occupancy rates reached 85 per cent while worldwide occupany rose from 69 per cent to 69.6 per cent.

Ladbroke said that it had agreements in place to develop 30 new hotels over the next four years, improving the brand's global spread. The company added that it expected to benefit if Hilton Hotels Corporation won control of ITT although no resolution of the $10 billion bid battle is expected until later this year.

Exceptional items totalled £104 million, including costs to cover the closure of the property division and the resolution of legal battles over the Paris Hilton and the sale of Texas Homecare.

The total dividend was increased 3 per cent to 6.2p. A final dividend of 3.8p is payable on June 2.

Merger costs take their toll of Royal & SunAlliance

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

INTEGRATION costs, exchange rate movements and provisions against environmental claims have taken their toll on profits at the newly merged Royal & SunAlliance. Even the promise of a share buy-back was not enough to stop the shares slipping yesterday, after the company reported a fall in pre-tax profit to £648 million from £1 billion in the previous year.

The first annual results of the combined composite insurer showed that last year's £6 billion merger of Royal Insurance and SunAlliance has so far cost £201 million, £26 million more than the £175 million management predicted could be saved annually. A total of 5,000 jobs are expected to go.

The insurer plans to return up to 5 per cent of its capital to shareholders and will seek permission to do so at May's AGM. However, analysts expressed disappointment at a lower than expected total dividend and the high restructuring costs.

Shares fell 17p to 486p, after an initial jump to 515p on news of the buy-back. Operating profit fell from £915 million in 1995 to £706 million last year. This figure includes £117 million worth of provision against future asbestos and environmental claims in the United States, and £50 million to strengthen claims reserves in the UK. It also includes the effect of exchange rate movements, which cost £32 million over the year. It does not include integration costs of £201 million or a claims equalisation provision of £90 million.

CHRIS HARRIS



Roger Taylor, left, with Richard Gamble, group chief executive of Royal & SunAlliance, yesterday

RSA is among a number of insurance companies currently reassessing their possible future liability in the US for business written in the 1960s and 1970s. Eagle Star, the BAT Industries subsidiary, has set aside a £160 million provision.

Roger Taylor, RSA deputy chairman, annnounced Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered, is to become non-executive chairman. He said the share buyback left the way open for more acquisitions, but declined to comment on whether RSA was seeking a UK life insurer.

Profits for the general insurance business after the changes in claims reserving were £480 million, down from £754 million. Improvements in Canada and Scandinavia were offset by reduced profits elsewhere.

Mr Taylor described weather losses in the US as "exceptional" at £96 million, £36 million higher than in 1995. Life profits increased 15 per cent to £213 million.

The total dividend was raised to 19p per share, in line with management's forecast.

RSA believes personal motor insurance rates will rise this year and said it achieved increases of 8 per cent across the board in 1996.

German rates unchanged as rise in jobless slows

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bundesbank left German interest rates unchanged yesterday, a decision which coincided with news that unemployment increased again in February.

The discount rate remains at 2.5 per cent and the Lombard emergency financing rate at 4.5 per cent. The key repurchase rate remains at 3 per cent.

The German central bank was widely expected to keep rates on hold in spite of the country's evident problems of unemployment.

The news on jobs was better than many had anticipated after January's shocking rise in seasonally adjusted unemployment of 145,000.

In February, the total rose by only 5,000, to 4.32 million, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged from the 11.3 per cent registered in January.

January's figure sparked deep concern that Germany would fail to meet the Maastricht Treaty deficit criterium and Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, gave a warning on Wednesday that the country must achieve a turnround in its labour market performance if it is to meet the treaty requirements for joining a single currency.

Germany's VDMA association said yesterday that the capital equipment and plant construction industry may see an improvement in employment in the second half of this year after a slight decline in staff numbers in the first half.

But the Federation of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce said that the economy was stagnating in the current quarter, compared with the fourth quarter of last year and that it expected growth this year of only 2 per cent. This falls below the Government's growth target of 2.5 per cent.

Hambro back in the black

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HAMBRO Countrywide, one of Britain's largest estate agents, has returned to the black on the back of last year's surge in house prices. And the company reported that sales in January and February are up 25 per cent on the corresponding period last year.

The company also announced the acquisition of an estate agent in central London, an area that Hambro has deliberately avoided in the past. Hambro Countrywide has paid £7.45 million for Faron Sutaria to give it a platform on which to build in the London property market.

In the year to December 31, Faron Sutaria made a profit before proprietors' interests of £1.5 million and has made a "very encouraging" start to this year. Net assets are £983,000.

Pre-tax profits reached £30.8 million in 1996, a striking recovery from the £3.9 million loss clocked up in 1995. Earnings per share recovered to 8.42p from a loss of 2.16p in 1995. The dividend has been restored to 2p a share for the year.

Hambro Countrywide sold 83,844 houses in the year, a rise of 28 per cent on 1995. The company said that the housing market is improving across the country, although there are still regional differences. London and the South East are outpacing other areas.

Hillsdown meets expectations

BY CLARE STEWART

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the food manufacturer whose brands range from Typhoo Tea to Buxted chickens, reported results at the top end of City expectations, with pre-tax profits of £128.8 million for the year to December 31.

This compares to the previous year's result when a heavy write-off after the sale of its stake in Maple Leaf Foods of Canada produced a £12 million loss.

Hillsdown also said it is hopeful of soon recovering £7.4 million of tax paid in 1989 on money received from the pension fund of a subsidiary. Hillsdown, which was subsequently forced by the Pensions Ombudsman to repay the pension fund, is planning to serve its outstanding writ against the Inland Revenue to recover the tax paid and interest accrued.



George Greener noted improved consumer confidence

George Greener, who took over as Hillsdown chief executive during the year, struck a confident tone commenting on the results, noting the better business climate and improvement in consumer confidence.

Excluding the benefits of acquisitions, group sales grew 7 per cent overall with operating profits ahead 11.5 per cent. The poultry businesses flourished, helped by increased demand from consumers worried about BSE and red meat. Operating profits rose 18 per cent to £39.1 million.

The recovery in the housing market in the South East lifted results and operating margins at Fairview New Homes where, together with the furniture division, operating profits increased 30 per cent to £46.8 million.

There is a final dividend of 7.8p making a total of 10p for the year, up 5.3 per cent. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of around £165 million for the current year. Shares in the group were unchanged at 191p.

Cookson slide hits executive bonuses

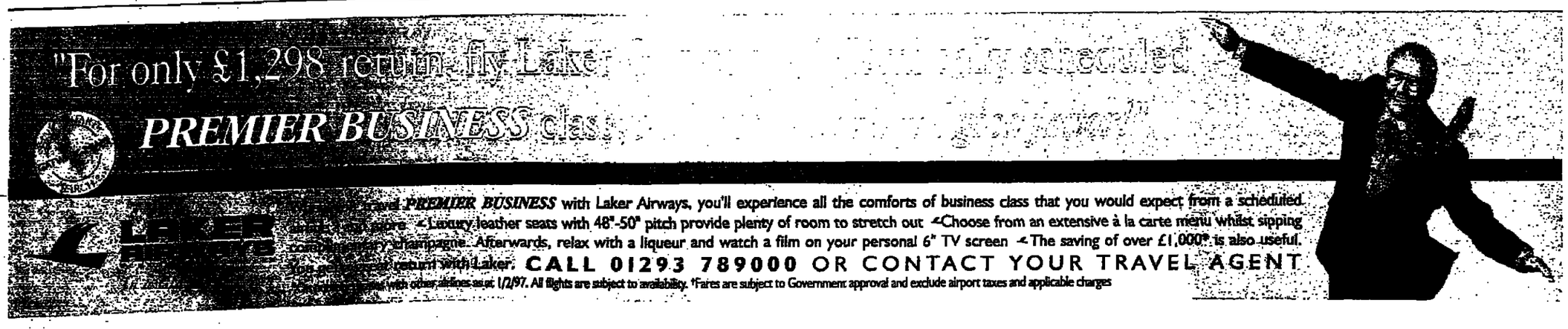
BY CARL MORTISHED

DIRECTORS of Cookson will not receive bonuses after a year in which the materials group suffered a sharp decline in profits and margins. The worldwide slowdown in circuit board manufacture, combined with a slump in demand for ceramic products in Europe, were to blame for an 8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £166 million.

Richard Oster, chief executive, said demand for Cookson's laminates from circuit board makers had picked up in the fourth quarter. "We expect continued improvement, with guarded optimism," he said.

Return on sales fell from 11.1 per cent to 10 per cent, mainly due to an 18 per cent fall in profits from electronic materials. Advanced refractories, which makes materials for the steel industry, achieved 5 per cent organic growth despite worldwide steel production being in decline. However, Cookson Matthey Ceramics, the joint venture with Johnson Matthey, suffered from the decline in European construction markets and profits fell 18 per cent. The total dividend is up 8 per cent at 8.6p a share, with a final 4.7p, payable from pre-exceptional earnings of 17p (18.9p).

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street leads London to another record close

FUELLED by Wall Street's 93-point leap overnight, share prices in London were again scaling new heights.

The FT-SE 100 index ended just below its best of the day with a rise of 39.2 points at a new closing high of 4,399.3. A modest 885 million shares had changed hands, suggesting that the market is being propelled higher by a stock shortages among blue chips.

Investors remain buyers of equities and it seems that demand will continue to outstrip supply for the time being anyway. Wall Street's latest surge came on the back of comments earlier this week from Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, who reassured investors by saying that the equity market was fairly valued.

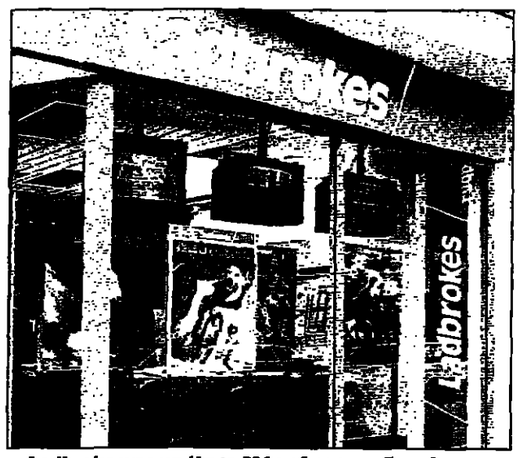
Traders were kept busy by a steady stream of trading statements from leading companies. Full-year figures from **Glaxo Wellcome** received a lukewarm reception, with the price recovering from an early fall to finish just 10½p dearer at £10.49. Pre-tax profits were 18 per cent higher at £2.96 billion, but the group said that a sharp slide in sales of its best-selling drugs, Zantac and Zovirax, after coming off patent in the US was likely to provide a vacuum in sales growth. Sales of new drugs rose 50 per cent to £2 billion.

Institutional investors uncertain about the medium-term outlook for the company were being urged by brokers to switch into **SmithKline Beecham**, 23p up at 942½p, **Zeneca**, reporting next week, finished 6½p better at £18.70.

Ladbroke, up 11p at 236p, pleased the market, with profits 18 per cent higher at £163 million before exceptionals. It was helped by a strong performance from racing and casinos. Brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits of up to £225 million for the current year.

The group is not ruling out the possibility of making acquisitions and speculators say it may decide to top the **London Clubs International** £180 million offer for **Capital Corporation**, 2p easier at 202p. London Clubs finished 1½p better at 388½p.

Dealers were impressed with full-year figures from **Rolls-Royce**, up 16p at 255p, in spite of diving into the red after write-offs of £248 million. Demand for the Trent engine is swelling the order book, which now stands at £7 billion. **BTR**



Ladbroke was up 11p to 236p after a profits advance

rose 5p to 259p after an expected drop in profits. The group said the strength of the pound could dent profits by as much as £50 million. **GKN** responded to a 13 per cent rise in full-year profits with a rise of 18½p at 974p. The shares are likely to fall sharply when US courts rule on the Meineke franchise case.

Newly merged **Royal &** at 823½p as almost a million shares were traded. It follows suggestions that **Associated British Foods** wants to spend some of its cash mountain on an acquisition. Earlier this week, AB Foods was being linked with **Hillsdown**, unchanged at 191p after figures, but this seems unlikely. AB Foods closed 7½p up at 488p.

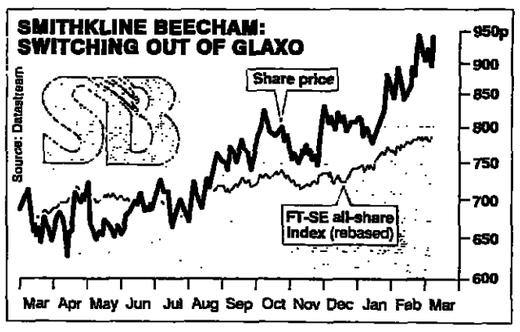
Unilever rose 20½p to

Shell rose 13p to £10.76½ amid whispers that the group is looking to make its first acquisition in more than a decade. Speculators say top of its hit list is Cairn Energy, 28p dearer at 574½p, on turnover of 6.6 million shares. Both companies have exploration interests in Pakistan. Cairn is capitalised at £901 million.

SunAlliance finished 9½p down at 494p after disappointing profits news that overshadowed news of a share buyback, while a strong second-half performance lifted **Cookson Group** 6½p to 235p. A better than expected performance from **Arjo Wiggins Appleton** was good for 15½p on the shares at 185½p.

Speculative buying drove **Reckitt & Colman** 11p higher £15.62 as Dutch investors bought the Unilever NV stock in Amsterdam.

Hopes that cash-rich building societies soon to be making their stock market debuts will be quickly on the lookout for bolt-on acquisition in the financial sector boosted the insurers. **Legal & General**, up 12½p at 408p, is seen as a potential target for the Halifax. The speculators are not



ruling out the possibility of a merger at some stage between **Commercial Union**, 7p stronger at 738p, and **General Accident**, 3½p better at 857½p.

Shares of **Mosaic Investments** were suspended at 51½p after it confirmed that it was in talks to acquire Bolton Wanderers, the football club. The deal could be worth £25 million. David Williams, chairman of Mosaic, said talks were at an early stage.

Talk of a profits downgrading by SBC Warburg, the broker, left **Azlan Group** nursing a loss of 34p at 590p. Warburg is said to be worried by the impact of the strong pound on the computer software group's prospects.

A profits warning also left **Radius** 11p off at 50½p. The computer systems group said there would be a 10 per cent shortfall in profits in 1996 after one of its key customers in the US filed for bankruptcy.

MAID held on to a 2½p rise at 175p in spite of reports that **Reuters**, was renegotiating with purchasers of its information supply, which could lead to an increase in costs. The MAID share price was hit by another bear raid earlier this week. Reuters, which is believed to be on the lookout for acquisitions, finished 3p dearer at 647p.

It was the first day of trading for **Girovend Cashless Systems** after a placing by Collins Stewart, the broker, at 160p. After opening at 176½p, the price closed at its best of the day at 182½p. Almost a million shares changed hands.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A sell-off in German bunds dragged prices lower in London towards the close. But the falls in London were restricted by good news on the inflation front, with the latest CBI *Distributive Trades Survey* showing a slowdown in sales growth in the year to February.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £$^{1}/_{16}$ lower at £$111^{13}/_{32}$ in modest trading that saw just 55,000 contracts completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 gained $^{1}/_{32}$ at £105, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up $^{1}/_{16}$ to £$103^{23}/_{4}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average was higher in early trading, but investors remained tentative ahead of the release of employment data. At midday, the index was up 35.02 points to 6,980.87.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ..... 6980.87 (+35.02)
S&P Composite ..... 802.65 (+0.66)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ..... 18041.33 (-232.18)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 13416.36 (+5.60)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ..... 764.67 (+9.44)

Sydney:
AO ..... 2447.4 (+14.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX ..... 3417.60 (+52.61)

Singapore:
Straits ..... 2189.60 (-2.93)

Brussels:
General ..... 12203.65 (+114.31)

Paris:
CAC-40 ..... 2698.92 (+32.73)

Zurich:
SKA Gen ..... 960.90 (+10.10)

London:

FT 30	2911.5 (+19.0)
FT 100	4399.3 (+39.2)
FTSE Mid 250	4707.5 (+28.9)
FTSE 350	2174.6 (+18.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2198.85 (+32.42)
FT All-Share	2145.25 (+16.93)
FT Non Financials	2191.36 (+17.11)
FT Fixed Interest	119.35 (-0.42)
FT Govt Secs	95.55 (+0.12)
Bargains	56947
SEAQ Volume	885.7m
US$	1.6114 (+0.0014)
German Mark	2.7692 (+0.0135)
Exchange Index	98.4 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4158
£:SDR	1.1711
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	106½	...
Aortech	136½	...
C&B Publishing	175	...
Caldore Warrants	1	...
Centrica (75½)	64¼	...
Core Group	333½	+ 8½
Energy Group (525)	528½	+ 4½
Girovend Csh Sys	182½	...
Howie	30½	...
Infobank Intl	155	+ 6
Nord Anglo Eductn	165½	...
Psd Group	286½	...
Screen	6	+ ¼
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	59	+ 1½
Tea Plantations Inv	102	...
Technoplast	108	+ 2
VFG	41½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Bibby (J)	181½p (+53p)
Flare	130½p (+15½p)
Arjo Wiggins	185½p (+15½p)
Mowlem (J)	135p (+10p)
Sentry Farm	152½p (+10p)
Rolls-Royce	255p (+16p)
RPS Group	202½p (+11p)
CPL Aromas	219p (+11½p)
Cairn Energy	574½p (+28p)
Ladbroke	236p (+11p)
Hanson	301p (+14p)
Cater Allen	417½p (+17½p)
Securicor	330½p (+13½p)
DCS Group	300½p (+12p)
Osborne & Little	825p (+27½p)
Highland Distl	361p (+12p)
Chiroscience	394p (+12½p)
Legal & Gen	408½p (+12½p)
Flying Flw Uts	280p (+8½p)
Waste Mgt Intl	257p (+7p)
EMAP	768½p (+21½p)
Capita Group	695½p (+18p)
Close Bros	420p (+10½p)
BAT	549p (+18p)

FALLS:

Radius	50½p (-11p)
English Nat	200p (-23p)
Azlan	590p (-34p)
Danka Bs Sys	642½p (-17½p)
FI Group	561½p (-14½p)
Lex Service	351½p (-8½p)
Critchley	690p (-15p)
Royal & Sun	494p (-9½p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Humble pie on the table

A CHASTENED Cookson Group managed to sound almost, but not quite, humble yesterday. The profits downturn, which will leave the bosses bereft of bonuses, was described as a "pause in the progress towards the goal of superior performance".

Fast-moving industries, like computers, have a nasty habit of getting demand and supply out of sync and Cookson's electronic materials business took a hammering from the slowdown in demand for circuit boards. Nevertheless, the company cannot be blamed for targeting a growth sector and has acted quickly to get its own stock management under control. In the circumstances, a cash inflow of £92 million in the second half is a significant achievement.

Another healthy sign is Cookson's frank discussion of target returns. With a pre-tax cost of capital in the region of 16 per cent and a current average return on capital of 12.4 per cent, Cookson is destroying, not creating, value for shareholders. Managers have been encouraged to put their backs into achieving target returns but, clearly, Cookson needs to achieve 20 per cent returns from its best businesses if it is to beat the target overall.

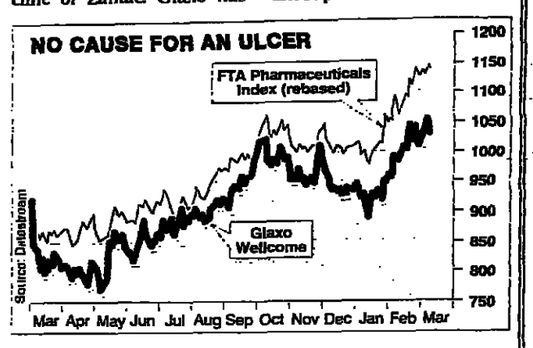
That is not an impossible goal; with order books growing in the computer industry, electronic materials should quickly achieve better returns but ceramics will find the going tough. Of course, Cookson could make its task easier if its cost of capital were cheaper. Having shown itself adept at squeezing cash out of the business, Cookson could increase gearing — currently only 35 per cent — with lower cost debt. That could make more cash available for dividends and boost returns.

Glaxo Wellcome

THIS is a watershed year for Glaxo Wellcome. In July, Zantac, the blockbuster ulcer treatment that once accounted for half of the company's sales, loses its American patent. At that point, all hell will break lose. Generic competition could wipe the drug off the pharmaceuticals map, flattening Glaxo's growth.

In theory, anyway. The reality is somewhat less grim. Zantac, while still Glaxo's bestseller, accounted for only 23 per cent of sales in 1996, of which slightly more than half were made in the US. The most pessimistic outlook sees generic competition eliminating 80 per cent of Zantac's US sales, a scenario that appears to be fully reflected in the share price. Glaxo, however, would be crucified if it took anything but a highly conservative stance. A vigorous marketing campaign combined with an effort to ramp up sales of the product in over-the-counter form could trim the decline to 60 per cent or so. Zantac, meanwhile, is far from dead outside of the US.

The risk, of course, is that sales of new products will be insufficient to offset the decline of Zantac. Glaxo has dozens of new products, notably asthma drugs, in the pipeline, but they will have little impact on group sales until late next year. By 1999, their momentum should return Glaxo to double-digit growth. Having underperformed the sector, Glaxo shares have little downside risk and could offer a pleasant suprise.



Ladbroke

A YEAR ago the bookmaking industry seemed to be in terminal decline. While the lottery stole custom, the bookies struggled to rid themselves of their fags and beer image. Betting shop owners cried foul and were rewarded with a series of deregulation measures. Yesterday, Ladbroke demonstrated that the reforms could work to its advantage. Not only did the core punters return to the fold, but modern shops and new games have captured new money. As Ladbroke gleefully pointed out yesterday, the boot is now on the other foot with Camelot carping about unfair competition from the bookies' fixed-odds lotteries.

The revival in betting has a twin effect: the company's return to growth is ensured, but it also makes Ladbroke a distinctly more attractive takeover target for hotel groups with their sights on the Hilton brand. Hilton Hotels Corporation, which owns the US part of the chain, may well use its option to increase its stake up to 25 per cent to shore up the company. But with uplift potential from the alliance of the two companies, Ladbroke looks a good punt.

Airbus

AIRBUS has made its strongest case yet for building "superjumbos", aircraft capable of carrying more than 500 people. Executives in Toulouse were clearly miffed by Boeing's announcement last December that there was no market for such aircraft. The Airbus view is that airlines spurned Boeing's offer of a stretched 747 because they wanted a new aircraft rather than a jumbo with a loft extension. Who would provide such an aircraft? Why, only Airbus. Boeing's competitor, planned a new aircraft, and Boeing is acting as spoiler by pronouncing the market non-existent.

So much for the dog fight. Airbus still has to satisfy both banks and customers that their superjumbo makes financial sense. Is there a real demand for it? Airbus reckons there is and points to figures suggesting that air travel will treble over the next 20 years with strong growth in flights to Asia and within the Asia-Pacific region. These require ever larger aircraft because of the scarcity of runway space. Furthermore, 19 airlines are said to have expressed strong interest in the superjumbo, including United Airlines which is already flying two 747s within 15 minutes of each other on the Los Angeles to Tokyo route in order to satisfy demand for seats.

If Airbus is right, the superjumbo would be a big boost for British industry. Not only would British Aerospace win a substantial share of the work, but Rolls-Royce is also poised to supply the engines.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	unq	May	994-993
May	934-932	Jul	1008 SLR
Jul	946 BID	Sep	unq
Sep	956-955	Dec	1050-1030
Dec	959 BID		
Mar	980-979	Volume: 6093	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1745-1740	Nov	1700-1690
May	1725 BID	Jan	1676 SLR
Jul	1725-1723	Mar	unq
Sep	1720-1715	Volume: 5777	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.9-01.1
Spot: 309.7		Mar	303.5-03.0
May	307.2-06.8	May	305.5-03.4
Aug	306.0-05.8	Jun	unq
Oct	302.0-01.5	Volume: 867	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	85.61	145.05	97.94
(+/-)	+0.17	+2.38	-2.70
Eng/Wales:	83.61	147.15	97.13
(+/-)	+0.17	+2.96	-2.95
(%)	+7.0	+10.0	
Scotland	unq	140.61	102.49
(+/-)	+0.80	-1.82	
(%)	-5.0	-11.0	

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.35	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.50	+0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	19.30	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.75	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.60	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	204 (n/c)	207 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	164 (+1)	165 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	82 (-2)	85 (+1)
Naphtha	165 (-1)	189 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	164.50-64.75	Jun	168.50-69.00
Apr	166.25 BID	Jul	n/a
May	167.25-67.75	Vol: 20800	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.51-19.52	Jul	18.99 BID
May	19.23-19.24	Aug	18.93 BID
Jun	19.10-19.12	Vol: 30374	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	97.35	Mar	90.75
May	100.00	May	91.75
Jul	102.50	Sep	90.75
Sep	92.75	Nov	92.75
Nov	94.75	Jan	94.75
Volume: 427		Volume: 12	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	65.0	65.0
May	69.5	70.0
Jun	unq	76.0
	Volume: 34	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/kg)

Apr 80.50-81.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1485	1440	1485
Apr 97	1575	1525	1570
May 97	1545	1505	1540
Jul 97	1310	1294	1310
Vol: 253 lots		Open interest: 2863	
	Index 1419 +5		

(Official) (Volume prev day) **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** Reuter Wolff

Cash: 2433.0-2434.0 3mth: 2375.5-2376.0 Vol: 151825

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	n/l.00-n/l.00
Lead ($/tonne)	n/l.00-n/l.00
Zinc spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1233.0-1234.0
Tin ($/tonne)	5780.0-5785.0
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1638.0-1639.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	7994.0-7995.0

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	454950
Lead ($/tonne)	822325
Zinc spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	17980
Tin ($/tonne)	20350S0
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	93810
Nickel ($/tonne)	93810

FTSE INDEX (*3/4s)

4250 4300 4350 4400 4450 4500

Calls

Mar	149	99	59½	30	11	3
Apr	199½	130	97	66	41½	24½
May	191½	155	123	93	69	48
Jun	218	186	152	120	96	72
Dec	—	301½	—	241	—	191½

Puts

Mar	9½	16	29½	51	84½	127½
Apr	33½	45½	62	83½	110	144
May	56½	70	87½	107½	133½	163½
Jun	79½	88	104½	124½	150½	177
Dec	—	153	—	193½	—	241½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	111-30	112-07	111-27	111-28	4334
Previous open interest: 260656	Jun 97	111-14	111-25	111-09	111-13	55286
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	101.97	102.02	101.58	101.67	192097
Previous open interest: 242558	Sep 97	100.90	100.90	100.90	100.82	100
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	126.80	127.49	126.65	127.10	67270
Previous open interest: 95382	Sep 97	126.92	127.40	126.60	127.02	368
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.93	126.94	126.82	126.92	996
	Jun 97	125.40	125.40	125.27	125.39	2360
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.74	93.76	93.73	93.75	14511
	Jun 97	93.54	93.60	93.53	93.57	31604
Previous open interest: 523575	Sep 97	93.32	93.40	93.31	93.35	24069
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 97	96.76	96.76	96.74	96.75	27036
Previous open interest: 1250658	Apr 97	96.77	96.77	96.76	96.76	1870
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 97	92.67	92.70	92.66	92.68	7474
Previous open interest: 286975	Jun 97	93.08	93.15	93.06	93.11	24335
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97	99.42	99.42	99.42	99.42	432
	Sep 97	99.30	99.33	99.30	99.32	1180
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 97	98.15	98.20	98.12	98.14	4139
Previous open interest: 111320	Jun 97	98.17	98.21	98.14	98.17	19301
Three Mth ECU	Mar 97	95.76	95.77	95.76	95.75	753
Previous open interest: 34711	Jun 97	95.77	95.79	95.77	95.77	917
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4437.5	4390.0	4374.0	4379.0	15740
Previous open interest: 71816	Jun 97	4395.0	4418.5	4395.0	4399.0	4826

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: *O/night high:* 6½ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5½ ; 3 mth 5½ . Sell: 2 mth 5¼ ; 3 mth: 5¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5½-5¼	5-5⅛	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 5½, close 6½ .					
Local Authority Depo:	5½	n/a	6½	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.35	n/a	5.44	5.60	5.90
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4¹⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅝
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅝
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1	2⅛-1⅛
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $352.00-352.30 Close: $352.00-352.50 High: $353.45-353.95
Low: $351.05-351.55 AM: $352.15 PM: $353.10

Krugerrand: $351.00-354.00 (£218.00-220.00)

Platinum: $382.00 (£236.70) Silver: $5.19 (£3.215) Palladium: $146.50 (£90.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 6	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1118-3.1220	3.1176-3.1202	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¾pr
Brussels	57.040-57.230	57.099-57.108	15-10pr	43-36pr
Copenhagen	10.540-10.572	10.558-10.568	¼-¼pr	½-¾pr
Dublin	1.0327-1.0359	1.0339-1.0351	5-1pr	14-8pr
Frankfurt	2.7655-2.7733	2.7691-2.7716	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr
Lisbon	277.21-278.15	277.61-277.93	¼-⅜ds	¼-⅜ds
Madrid	233.04-234.48	234.26-234.44	5-⅜ds	2-2⅛ds
Milan	2745.7-2759.2	2745.8-2748.9	26-42ds	74-97ds
Montreal	2.1962-2.2046	2.1985-2.2006	0.59-0.54pr	1.18-1.10pr
New York	1.6092-1.6134	1.6116-1.6125	0.975-0.775pr	0.278-0.247pr
Oslo	11.177-11.261	11.181-11.191	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Paris	9.3260-9.3540	9.3392-9.3460	2¼-2¼pr	¾-¾pr
Stockholm	12.32p-12.375	12.331-12.350	¼-⅜ds	¼-⅜ds
Tokyo	195.43-196.23	195.87-196.12	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¾pr
Vienna	19.456-19.520	19.488-19.505	¼-⅜ds	¼-⅜ds
Zurich	2.3935-2.4046	2.3987-2.4017	¼-¼pr	2¼-2½pr

Sources Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2710-1.2724
Austria	12.10-12.11
Belgium (Com)	35.46-35.50
Canada	1.3639-1.3644
Denmark	6.5555-6.5565
France	5.7992-5.8002
Germany	1.7201-1.7208
Hong Kong	7.7425-7.7435
Ireland	1.5550-1.5570
Italy	1705.40-1706.15
Japan	121.65-121.75
Malaysia	2.4755-2.4762
Netherlands	1.9356-1.9360
Norway	6.9427-6.9441
Portugal	172.56-172.66
Singapore	1.4311-1.4318
Spain	145.38-145.47
Sweden	7.6534-7.6609
Switzerland	1.4900S-1.4910

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.0116-1.0145
Australia dollar	2.0479-2.0504
Bahrain dinar	0.6015-0.6135
Brazil real	1.6900-1.6944
China yuan	13.20p-13.50p
Cyprus pound	0.8175-0.8275
Finland markka	6.1850-8.3010
Greece drachma	426.5-436.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.4732-12.4787
India rupee	57.39-58.35
Indonesia rupiah	3826.0-3894.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4840-0.4940
Malaysia ringgit	3.9880-3.9904
New Zealand dollar	2.2972-2.2995
Pakistan rupee	64.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8050-5.9290
Singapore dollar	2.3055-2.3073
S Africa rand (com)	7.1260-7.2300
U A E dirham	5.8575-5.9815

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

WALL STREET

	Mar 6 midday	Mar 5 close
AMP Inc	38½	38⅞
AMR Corp	92½	93⅝
ASA	36½	36
AT & T	36⅛	36⅛
Abbott Labs	58	58⅛
Advanced Micro	38⅛	38⅝
Aetna Life	86½	86⅝
Ahmanson (H F)	41	42
Air Prod & Chem	74⅛	74⅜
AirTouch Comm	26½	27
Albertn-Culver B	29⅝	29⅝
Albertson's	35⅝	35½
Alcan Aluminm	35⅛	35⅜
Allied Signal	72½	72⅝
Alum Co of Am	71⅛	71½
Amax Gold Inc	7⅛	7⅛
Amerada Hess	53⅛	53⅜
Amer Brands	53½	53⅝
Amer El Power	41½	41⅝
Amer Express	66⅛	66½
Amer Gen Corp	43	43
Amer Home Pr	65⅛	66⅛
Amer Intl	123⅛	123⅜
Amer Stores	44⅛	44⅛
Amer Standard	46½	46⅝
Ameritech	61⅛	61⅛
Amoco	86½	85⅝
Anheuser-Busch	43⅛	43⅛
Apple Computer	16½	17
Archer Daniels	18⅝	18⅛
Armco	3⅛	3⅛
Armstrong Wrld	70⅛	70⅝
Asarco	29⅜	30
Atl Richfield	126⅛	126
Auto Data Pro	44½	43⅞
Avery Dennison	40½	40⅝
Avon Products	69⅝	69⅝
Baker Hughes	38⅛	37⅞
Ballim Gas & El	26⅜	27⅛
Banc One	46⅛	45⅝
BankAmerica	118⅛	116½
Bank of NY	41	40
Bankers Tr NY	93½	93⅝
Barnett Banks	68⅛	68⅛
Bausch & Lomb	37⅛	37⅛
Baxter Intl	47	47⅛
Bean Dickinsn	49½	49⅜
Bell Atlantic	65	65
Bell Industries	22⅜	22⅜
Bellsouth	44½	44½
Black & Decker	31⅝	31⅝
Block (H&R)	30⅜	29⅝
Boeing	104½	104⅝
Boise Cascade	34	33⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	68½	69
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	28⅛	28⅛
Burlington Nthn	85	85⅛
CMS Energy Corp	33½	32⅞
CNA Financial	111	111
CPC Intl	85⅝	85⅝
CSX	59⅛	59⅛
Campbell Soup	58⅛	58⅝
Can Pacific	25⅛	25⅝
Carolina Pwr	37⅜	37⅜
Caterpillar	89½	89⅝
Central & Sth	23⅜	23⅛
Champion Intl	44	43½
Chase Manhtn	103½	103⅝
Chevron Corp	65⅛	65⅝
Chrysler	31½	31½
Chubb Corp	68⅛	68⅛
Cigna Corp	148⅛	151⅝
Citicorp	124½	125⅜
Clorox	120⅛	120
Coastal Corp	42½	42⅝
Coca Cola	61⅝	61⅝
Coca Cola Ent	22⅝	22
Colgate-Palmt	107⅛	106⅞
Columbia Gas	69⅛	69⅛
ColumbiaHCA	43⅜	43⅜
Compaq Comp	79⅛	81⅞
Comptr Ass Int	44⅜	43⅞
Comptr Sc	42½	43⅜
Conrail	113	113
Cons Edison	31	31⅛
Cons Nat Gas	51½	52⅛
Cooper Inds	44⅜	44⅜
Corestates	53⅜	52⅞
Corning Inc	38	38
Crown Cork	50	50
Dana Corp	41⅛	40⅞
Daytnd Hudson	81½	84⅛
Deere	43⅜	43
Delta Air Lines	94⅝	94⅞
Deluxe Corp	31½	31⅛
Digital Equip	33	32½
Dillard Dept St	30⅜	30⅜
Disney (Walt)	77⅝	77⅝
Dominion Res	48⅜	48⅝
Donnelley (Rr)	29⅝	29⅝
Dover Corp	50⅝	50⅝
Dow Chemical	81½	81½
Dow Jones	43⅛	43⅝
Dresser	31⅝	31⅝
Duke Power	44⅛	44⅛
Dun & Bradstrt	24⅝	24⅝
Du Pont	91⅛	91⅛
Eastman Chem	56½	56⅝
Eastman Kodak	88½	88⅛
Eaton Corp	72½	72½
Edison Intl	21½	21½
Elect Data Sys	45½	45½
Emerson Elec	101½	101⅝
Engelhard Corp	22	22
Enron Corp	40⅜	40⅜
Entergy	26⅛	26⅛
Ethyl Corp	9⅛	9⅛
Exxon	102	101⅞
FMC Corp	68⅝	68
FPL Group	45⅝	45⅝
Federal Express	54⅛	54⅛
First Bk Sys	81½	80⅝
First Union Rlty	12⅝	12⅝
Fleet Fnl Grp	62½	62⅝
Fluor Corp	61⅛	61⅛
Ford Motor	32⅜	32⅜
Fort Howard	29⅝	29⅝
Gannett	80⅜	80⅜
Gap Inc Del	32⅜	33⅛
Gen

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Light dawns at SunAlliance

WELCOME to the 20th century, Royal & SunAlliance. In a bid to inform the public and insurance brokers of its new identity, the insurance group has dug deep into its pockets, picking up a thing or two about popular culture along the way.

Talking at yesterday's results meeting, Richard Gamble, RSA's pin-striped group chief executive, made it clear he believed the group's costly new advertising campaign, featuring a host of showbiz celebrities, was well worth the money.

"Everyone here now knows who Mystic Meg is, including Roger Taylor and I, who were a bit confused in the early days," he admitted.

TO celebrate the new millennium and its 150th anniversary in one fell swoop, Price Waterhouse is having a party. Word has it the beancounters have put down a deposit of around £300,000 for champagne to mature in 1999. Who says accountants are boring?

Welcome return

SIR Colin Corness is returning to his roots. The chairman of Glaxo Wellcome was yesterday appointed a non-executive director of Taylor Woodrow. Sir Colin, who cut his teeth at the construction group in 1954, left ten years later to pursue his career at Redland. As the first Cambridge graduate to be taken on at Taylor Woodrow he started on a salary of £500 a year. "How are you, cock? Before you start, as far as I'm concerned, you don't know nothing," was the greeting from Tom Reeves, his first boss. Sir Colin modestly tells me: "He was quite right of course. So I immediately set out to remedy this."



"Give up the horses — put a few bob on Ladbroke"

Chairman Marj

MARJORIE "the motivator" Scardino is making waves at Pearson. Nothing as dated as shoulder pads for the feisty Texan. The first and so far only female chief executive of a FT-SE 100 company charges into work wearing a baseball cap and sneakers. A source at a recent black tie dinner described Scardino's military trouser suit as "distinctly Chairman Mao style". Makes a change from the leg-of-mutton sleeves.

Hoax calls

INOU, the Irish group for the unemployed, has discovered a new hazard associated with organising a picket. Spurred into action by a claim from Isme, the Irish small business group, that a large portion of the unemployed are "social misfits", INOU went about organising a picket of Isme's headquarters in Dublin. Then the group received mysterious calls from people claiming to be officials in the Department of Social Welfare; they said that unemployed persons who took part in pickets could forfeit benefit because they were not available for work. Only after it was established that the calls were hoax, could INOU go ahead with yesterday's picket.

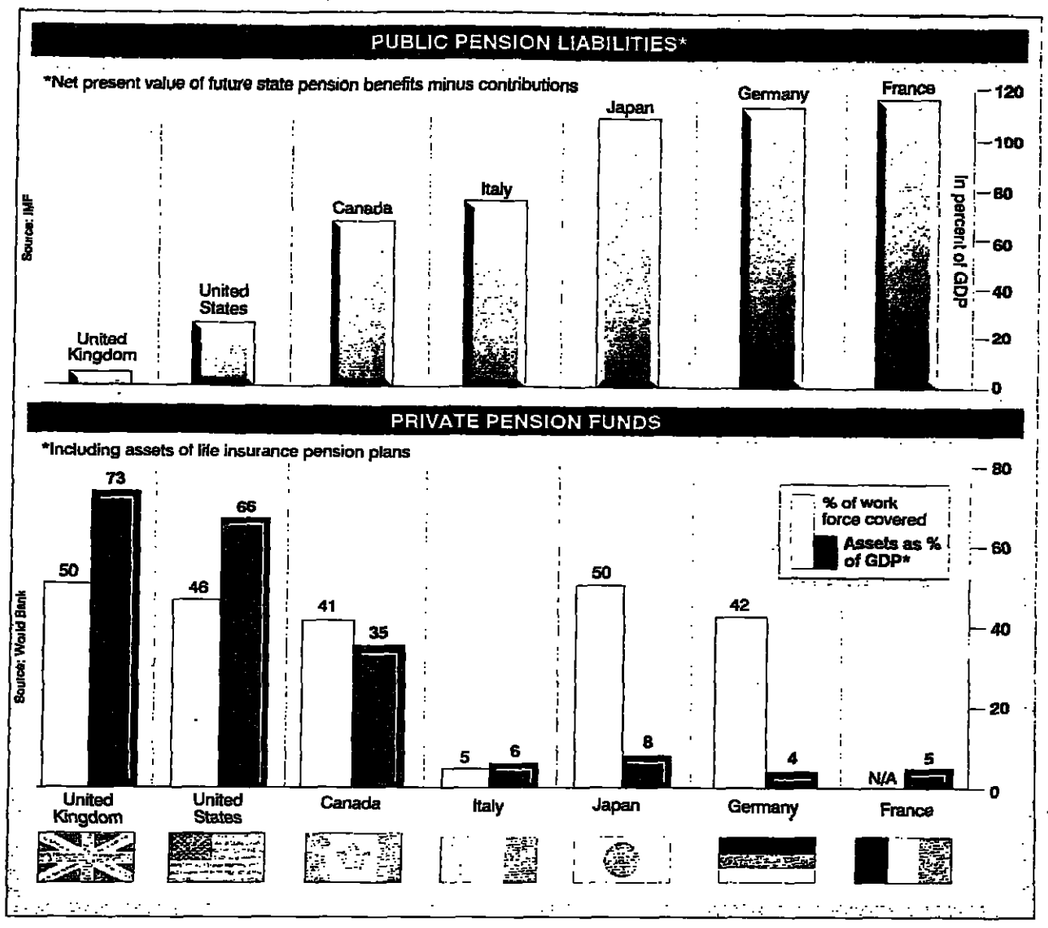
MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY



Lilley is going the right way but he has failed to grasp the nettle

Privatising pensions is an excellent idea if it is properly implemented



Things that seem too good to be true usually are. This principle should be borne in mind in response to the sudden news that Peter Lilley has discovered a way of privatising Britain's state pension system that will leave everyone better off and impose no perceptible losses on anyone at all. In saying this I do not wish to suggest that privatising pensions is a "bad thing". On the contrary it is, in principle, an excellent idea, reflecting the fact that government in a prosperous modern economy should be in the business of providing public goods and services that affect society as a whole, or which, by their nature, cannot be adequately or efficiently secured by individuals.

Examples of such legitimate and essential state activity include the redistribution of income and wealth through the tax system, provision of education, health and public order, support for the poor, subsidising culture, arts and scientific research, and insuring workers against unemployment.

Paying for the perfectly predictable and easily financeable exigencies of retirement and old age has few of the social characteristics of such useful state activity. Thus the pensions business is not an appropriate place for the State, except to the limited extent of providing a modest safety net for those elderly people who were too poor, too unlucky or too improvident during their working lifetimes to save up for their own retirement.

These categories were very large in 1945 when the Labour Government introduced the state pension. But the 50 post-war years of rapid economic growth changed all this. Most workers now earn enough to put away reasonable sums to provide for their own retirement. By the time they retire they can hope, if they act sensibly, to accumulate substantial savings, both in the form of financial assets and as equity in the housing market. Because of the rapid increase in real earnings since the 1940s for workers and pensioners, most of the victims of poverty are no longer pensioners but the children of single parents and the unemployed.

For these reasons and many others, it is absolutely right that the State should gradually withdraw from its temporary post-war role as a pensions paymaster for all and become instead a provider of last restort for the poor, the unlucky and the improvident.

Why then do I object to Mr Lilley's proposals? Because Mr Lilley, influenced no doubt by electoral timing, is trying to sell his plan on a false prospectus. By pretending that pensions can be reformed in a way that involves no sacrifices or concessions he is seriously misleading the public and diverting attention away from big economic and political choices that have to be made in the next few years, to largely illusory "structural" problems in the never-never land of the late 21st century.

The illusory nature of the "demographic timebomb" Mr Lilley is so bravely offering to defuse is illustrated in the top chart, which shows the International Monetary Fund's estimate of the extent to which the pension benefits promised over the next 60 years by the governments of G7 countries exceed the payroll taxes they have arranged to collect. Clearly a demographic timebomb does threaten Germany, France, Italy and Japan. But the fact is that Britain does not face any serious long-term problem in paying the present state pensions and uprating them in line with inflation. This is largely because of the cuts already made since 1980 in state pension entitlements.

What then are the real issues to be addressed in a serious pension reform? I would suggest the following:

☐ After the cuts of the 1980s, the present basic state pension is scarcely adequate for dignified survival, and its value will continue to fall drastically in relation to average earnings. The present generation will be condemned to near-poverty unless they make private provisions for retirement, yet only half the workforce is covered by occupational pension schemes. Something needs to be done — and done urgently — to ensure that people who are now in their 30s and 40s save more for retirement instead of relying on the state pension system. But Mr Lilley's scheme ignores this problem and could make matters worse by creating the illusion that the long-term problem of inadequate state pensions has now been "dealt with".

☐ The state pension, even despite its miserly level, still absorbs too high a proportion of public spending and national income. The £30 billion now spent on the basic state pension crowds out spending on essential public services such as health, education and helping the poor. This pressure on public spending will intensify in the years ahead.

At the same time the subsidies and tax exemptions offered to private pensions drain a further £11 billion a year from the Exchequer. The question of whether a universal state pension, and pension subsidies payable to rich and poor alike, are a higher priority than a universal health and education system needs to be addressed now. Waiting until 2050 is not good enough.

Again Mr Lilley has made things worse by giving the impression that he has grasped this nettle when all he has done is to defer a resolution of the conflict between pensions and public services for 50 years — a long time to wait for decent health and education. Indeed, the Lilley plan would actually add to public spending pressures by raising total public spending to the tune of £7 billion (in today's money) for a "temporary" period that could last for 10 years or more.

☐ The most fundamental question of all is how the cost of pensions is to be shared between the generations. Under the present state system, the workers of today pay for their parents' pensions through the tax system. In a privately funded scheme, workers provide for their own pensions by buying assets. Funding is clearly the better approach. It means that pensions are guaranteed by property ownership, not by political promises. And it allows a country with a shrinking population to invest overseas and thereby rely on the labour of young workers abroad to help to support its retiring generation. The trouble is that switching from one system to the other means that some people pay twice — for their own future pensions and for the current pensions of those who are now retired. This is another insuperable problem that Mr Lilley has pretended to solve but has actually dodged.

Under his scheme the workers of the 21st century would pay twice over but Mr Lilley hopes they would not notice — for two reasons. First, our children's double payments would be rapidly shrinking because of the vanishing value of the state pension due to be paid to those of us who will retire in the next 50 years. Secondly, a part of the double payment will be levied from our children through the tax system instead of the National Insurance system. This is the real significance of the £7 billion temporary funding gap that Mr Lilley has admitted to.

There is nothing immoral about making our children pay twice over for pensions, nor is there anything wrong in principle with reducing almost to vanishing point the state pension for today's workers. What is objectionable is to do this by sleight of hand. Far better to persuade or force people to save more for their old age without excessive subsidies and tax breaks. And far better to admit that any change can only be achieved by making our children pay twice over for pensions.

After all, we workers of the present generation are also paying for pensions our parents never "earned" in the strict financial sense. The pre-war generation who retired in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s took far more out of the generous post-war pension systems than they ever put in.

Now we and our children have, in a sense, to pay for our parents' unearned pensions. But after what they suffered to bequeath us a free and prosperous world, who can begrudge them that?



Peter Lilley explaining how his plan would work

Life companies are seeking market listings Down Under, **Rachel Bridge** reports

Australians shed mutuality the British way

Just as Britain exported the concept of privatisation around the globe, the country is now leading the way with demutualisation, with mutual organisations following in the footsteps of organisations such as the Abbey National and the Halifax Building Society in seeking stock market listings.

Nowhere is this being pursued with greater vigour than in Australia. Demutualisation has suddenly become the biggest game Down Under.

All three of Australia's giant mutual life offices have now set their cap at demutualisation, followed by a stock market listing. National Mutual started the ball rolling with its A$3 billion (about £1.5 billion) stock market listing in October and Colonial Mutual Life and AMP are preparing to take the plunge. AMP's move coincides with its £2 billion bid for Scottish Amicable, in competition with Prudential and Abbey National.

David Trude, of First Pacific stockbrokers in Sydney, says that demutualisation of the three will have a dramatic impact on how the insurance sector develops in Australia. "Demutualisation will make a big difference in terms of what the life assurance companies can actually do in the future."

Insurance companies that were publically listed, he said, would be allowed to expand into other areas such as banking. Colonial, for example, bought the State Bank of New South Wales for A$577 million shortly after it decided on demutualisation.

The shake-up will also transform the insurance sector, Mr Trude says: "Before, investors had no access to the life assurance market at all, only general insurance. Now it has become a whole separate sector of the stock market. All of a sudden there are life assurance companies they can invest in, which have got a life of their own. It suddenly makes the sector very important."

Many of the benefits of Australia's demutualisation bonanza will flow to the UK. Colonial Mutual, now known as Colonial after its policyholders voted to demutualise in November, has 350,000 eligible policyholders in the UK who will share in its A$1.3 billion share handout, while AMP has about 200,000 UK policyholders eligible to a slice of its estimated A$10 billion handout — those who have life assurance policies with London Life and AMP (UK), although not policyholders with Pearl Assurance, which is owned directly by AMP.

For Colonial Mutual policyholders, analysts estimate that could mean an average allocation of shares worth A$2,500, while for AMP, which has not yet determined its share allocation, policyholders could receive shares worth an average of A$6,000. Colonial hopes to have listed by the end of this June, while AMP hopes to put firm proposals to a vote of members in the second half of 1997, with a listing in mid-1998. Both are hoping that their demutualisations proceed as smoothly as that of National Mutual, whose shares, given an initial value of A$1.50, have risen to A$1.84 on the Australian stock exchange since listing.

But also lurking in the minds of every Australian mutual director is the sorry tale of NMRA, Australia's motoring organisation. Two years ago the NMRA was forced to abandon its plans to demutualise and list after two dissident directors took it to court over its float prospectus, which was found to be "misleading and deceptive" because it suggested that the shares it planned to distribute were free rather than given in compensation for membership.

The whole exercise proved a costly exercise and in the two years since the demutualisation debacle the organisation has been brought low by continuing internal squabbles and a sharp drop in profits.

The unfolding drama at Scottish Amicable too is being watched with considerable interest Down Under, particularly by AMP. Jim Taylor, insurance analyst at Bankers Trust, says: "The Scottish Amicable thing has opened up a whole can of worms. It has really made people sit back and take a long and hard look at how best to proceed."

AMP's proposed demutualisation has already sparked off discontentment among some members, led by a Melbourne solicitor who is threatening to take legal action against the group if the share allocation it decides on disadvantages long-standing members in favour of recent policyholders.

Perhaps keen to avoid any early public feuding, AMP will not reveal details of its proposed float until after its annual meeting in April.



The Halifax's example of offering a little Xtra to members is now being copied

BUSINESS LETTERS

Concern over City bonuses

From Mr M. E. Simons

Sir, The Bank of England is rightly concerned that striving for gargantuan bonuses may inadvertently cause City high-flyers to take unjustified risks, putting their shareholders' businesses in peril, which, in turn, could cause a financial crisis. We have heard how pyramid selling has caused mayhem in Albania and how excesses at Baring scuppered a major bank. Of course, these problems originated in far-off countries, while the recent discovery of a NatWest black hole of £50 million is a mere bagatelle equivalent to 10 per cent of those receiving £1 million bonuses.

A major reason for the current excesses are effete bonus targets set by "managements" of investment banks and other City institutions. That causes some of our brightest, though not necessarily wisest, young talent to opt for employment in the City to the detriment of industry.

Why struggle to get to the top of ICI with 64,000 employees at a salary of £500K (with no 1996 bonus after £167K for 1995) when upward of 500 City folk, many of them youngsters, pick up gadarene bonuses in excess of £1 million for 1996, with many others receiving slightly more modest bonanzas?

Another reason is the preposterous level of professional fees charged in floating the likes of the Halifax and Woolwich, and the fees in takeover battles. Many of the latter are ill-conceived by febrile City schemers. Not only do many of such bids lumber successful defenders with horrendous costs, but they distract from managing the business. Unsuccessful bidders should be required to pick up the tabs of their intended victim. Industry should dig in its heels and challenge ludicrous City fees that bring socially corrosive, inappropriate rewards.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN E. SIMONS,
24 Granard Avenue, SW1.

Unhappy returns

From T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, Banks now enclose their interest rate with each statement. Building societies continue their dishonourable habit of lowering the return on a well-established account and leaving the lender to find out for himself. I imagine the banks changed only because they had to; can the new Building Societies Bill (*The Times*, February 28) be amended to make them change too?

Yours faithfully,
T.H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slades Cottage,
Breamore,
Fordingbridge,
Hampshire.

Flight of fancy

From Miss S. Sobernheim

Sir, It is heartwarming to note from Mr Des Wilson's letter (March 4) that the BAA is taking steps to reduce the effects of noise from the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow. However, what it is in fact doing is spreading the pain around by experimenting with shifting the noise pattern to other areas — such as this — which have so far experienced only a relatively low level of aircraft noise. Not quite the same thing. Mr Wilson.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA SOBERNHEIM,
1 Gloucester Court,
Swan Street, SE1.



Arjo shares boosted by unexpected profits leap

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Arjo Wiggins Appleton performed their sharpest leap for five years after the Anglo-French paper producer reported a bigger recovery than expected.

Its heavy restructuring program, which involved cutting its European staff by 12 per cent and closing two factories, delivered cost savings of £8 million over the year. Stabilisation of pulp prices and the resuscitation of general demand helped it to lift pre-tax profits 97 per cent to £134 million, beating forecasts by some £14 million.

The shares gained 17½p to 187½p, their highest for 11 months. Andrew Shaw, finance director, said the pulp prices were still gently declining, which promised that the recovery would continue. He said: "There is no cloud hanging over us at the moment, and unless there is another collapse in pulp prices, there is no reason why the recovery should not continue."

However, the company gave warning that some businesses were building up private paper reserves. Demand could be threatened, it said, if they started using their own stocks rather than buying new paper in the market.

Arjo spent £20 million on job cuts and factory closures over the year and plans to spend a further £30 million completing the moves this year. However, it hopes to recover this through cost savings this year, and expects to strip £50 million of costs in 1998.

The thermal paper division, which produces paper for fax machines, suffered from a difficult market over the year. The company said it will close a plant in Lincoln, and move a scaled-down operation to its plant in Cardiff. It said this was typical of the changes it is making throughout Europe.

Appleton Papers, its North American business, staged a strong comeback in the second half, with operating profit doubling to £66.7 million (£39.5 million). The woodfree paper business, which it bought just before the collapse of the market in 1995, also began to recover.

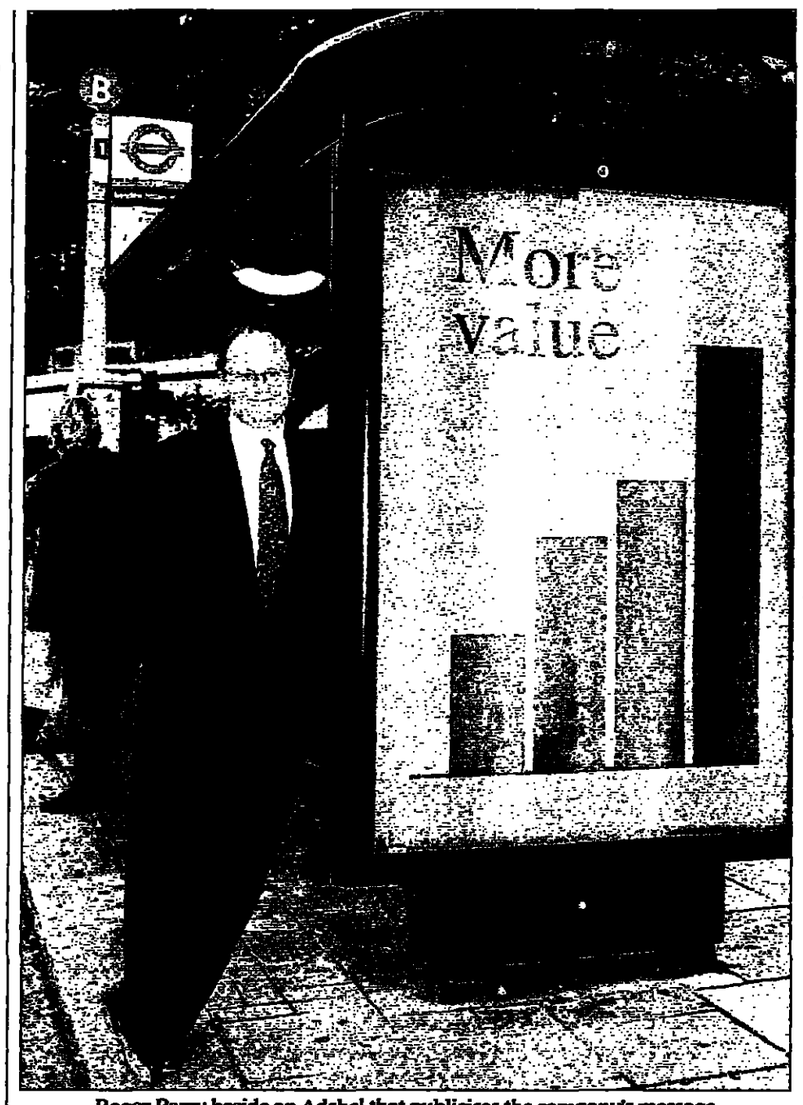
While group turnover was stagnant at £3.57 billion, the cost savings helped earnings to shoot to 10.2p (2.3p) before exceptionals. In spite of this rise, the final dividend is frozen at 7.5p, with a final 4.6p due on May 28. The company, formed when Wiggins Teape Appleton merged with Arjomari Prioux soon after being floated off by BAT industries seven years ago, is now expected by the City to make £210 million during 1997 and deliver earnings of 16.2p per share. The shares closed at 185½p.

Safeway in talks on Ulster deal

FITZWILTON, the Dublin-based company that owns the Wellworth chain of supermarkets in Northern Ireland, should reach agreement about a proposed joint venture with Safeway before the end of this month, a source close to the company said yesterday (Eileen McCabe writes).

Although both sides refuse to comment, it is believed that a sell-off of at least 50 per cent of Wellworth to Safeway for about IrE80 million is high on the agenda. There are also suggestions that the two might agree a joint venture to operate outlets in the Irish Republic.

Wellworth is a long-established, major player in Northern Ireland, with 37 stores and a 21 per cent market share.



Roger Parry beside an Adshel that publicises the company's message

Revamp in Belgium and France hits More

BY MARTIN BARROW

A £5.3 million exceptional charge against the restructuring of operations in France and Belgium caused a 14 per cent fall in pre-tax profits at More Group, the international outdoor advertising agency, in 1996.

The company, best known for its Adshel brand widely seen on UK high streets, said French and Belgian operations had been hampered by an outdated product range and difficult local markets.

Profits before tax and exceptional items rose to £18.3 million, from £15 million, on turnover that rose to £102.7 million, from £87.3 million. More reported an increase in the yield per advertising panel achieved in the UK and Ireland, reflecting improved service levels and better marketing as well as strong underlying economic growth.

The £77.3 million acquisition of Wennergren-Williams, the Scandinavian Group, completed in December, did not make a significant contribution to the results.

Roger Parry, chief executive, said: "The marketing initiatives taken early in the year in the UK and Ireland have been a great success. At the end of the year we made radical changes in France and Belgium, which will bring benefits in the future."

A final dividend of 11.4p a share lifts the total to 15p from 13.8p. Underlying earnings rose 22 per cent to 36p a share.

Heal's poised to raise £12m with flotation

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HEAL'S, the department store group bought by its management from Storehouse in 1990, is to list on the London Stock Exchange with first dealings expected on March 24.

The flotation will enable NatWest Ventures to sell its holding and management shareholders to sell part of their holdings. It is understood that the three executive directors and two senior managers will share about £1.5 million of the proceeds. It is expected NatWest will take out £8 million. The placing will raise £12 million out of which £1.75 million will go towards investment in existing stores and to develop new sites. Heal's has stores in central London and at Guildford in Surrey.

Heal's made a pre-tax profit of £1.8 million in the 53 weeks to September 14 and £1.6 million in the 20 weeks to February 1, the period in which it normally makes 90 per cent of its full-year operating profit. It is expected to float on March 18.

John Mowlem builds to a seven-year high

BY FRASER NELSON

JOHN MOWLEM, the construction group that returned to profit last summer, yesterday reinforced its recovery with its strongest set of final results for seven years.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £16.7 million last year, against the £30 million loss incurred after heavy redundancy costs in 1995.

The results were achieved in spite of a 3 per cent drop in revenues to £1.41 billion.

John Gains, appointed chief executive two years ago, said the results were entirely the result of good housekeeping: a number of loss-making contracts had been shed.

Mr Gains said that the company's prospects would be still further enhanced this year after the flotation of its Access division.

Its shares gained 7p yesterday, to 135p. Earnings were 8.1p per share, against a 17.6p loss last time.

A final dividend of 2p is due on July 1, lifting the total to 3p, after 2p last time.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IMI expands with $39m deal in US

IMI, the UK engineering group, is expanding its drink dispensing interests through the purchase of Wilshire, the privately owned corporation, for $39 million. Wilshire is a leading American manufacturer of drinks dispensing equipment. In 1996 the business earned pre-tax profits of $2.8 million on turnover of $60 million. The net value of assets being acquired is $8.5 million.

Wilshire employs about 400 people and has manufacturing plants in Connecticut, Illinois and Ontario. IMI will fund the acquisition from existing bank facilities and is expected to enhance earnings in 1997. Gary Allen, chief executive of IMI, said Wilshire's customer base in the US was complementary. "The potential for its highly regarded products is significantly enhanced through IMI's global sales and distribution network."

Bidders secure Whessoe

THE overseas bidders for Whessoe, the engineering group based in the North East, announced yesterday that they spoke for 51 per cent of Whessoe. Navia and Endress & Hauser said they now own or have agreed to acquire shares representing a 51 per cent stake. After settlement of outstanding share purchases, the offer will be declared unconditional, the companies said, adding that the offer will lapse if referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Ocean rises by £9m

OCEAN, the transport group, raised profits before tax and exceptional items from £54 million to £63 million in the year to December 31 on sales up marginally from £1.13 billion to £1.14 billion. The total dividend for the year rises from 14.33p to 15.2p out of earnings up from 10.4p to 28.2p. The company said that its aim was to grow into a leading player in the global logistics business and at the same time produce consistent progress in earnings.

Valeo expands in Wales

VALEO, the French automotive components company, is to invest another £14 million at its Gorseinon plant in West Glamorgan, creating more than 170 jobs. Valeo currently employs 470 people at the factory, which is the company's largest plant in the UK. The factory produces heating and air conditioning units for cars. The Welsh Development Agency will help to build a 35,000 sq ft extension at the factory and also be involved in skills training for new staff.

Bunzl grows in Oregon

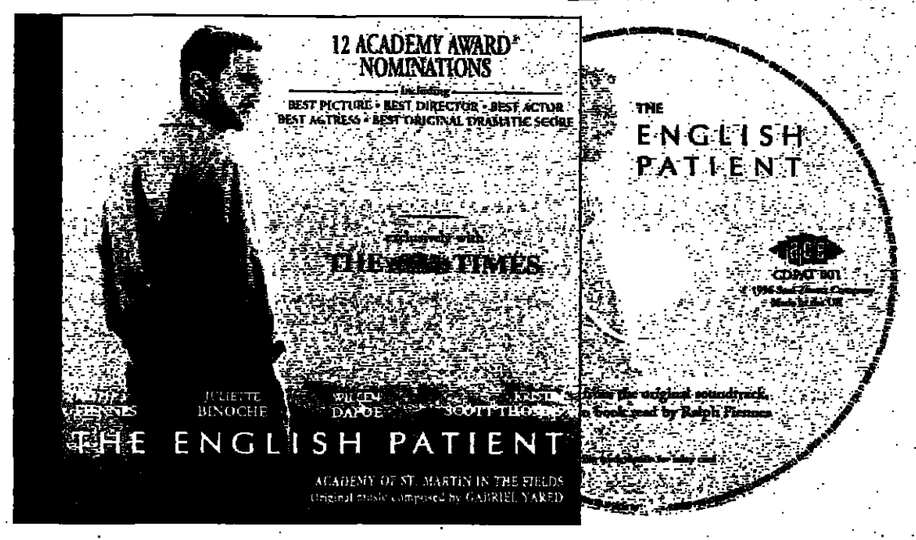
BUNZL, the paper and packaging group, said it has acquired Kenco Sales, a disposables redistribution company based in Portland, Oregon. Financial details were not disclosed. Bunzl said that the acquired business, which serves customers in Oregon and parts of southern Idaho, had annual sales of $13 million in 1996, and will be merged with Bunzl's existing business in Portland. Net assets acquired at completion are estimated to be £900,000.

Kode holds steady

KODE INTERNATIONAL overcame difficult trading conditions in the printed circuit board industry to hold profits unchanged at £1.4 million before tax and exceptional items in 1996 on turnover that fell slightly to £18.3 million from £19.4 million. There was an exceptional charge of £495,000 associated with a discontinued computer services business. The total dividend is lifted to 2.5p a share from 1p, with a 1.75p final.

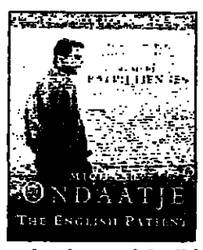
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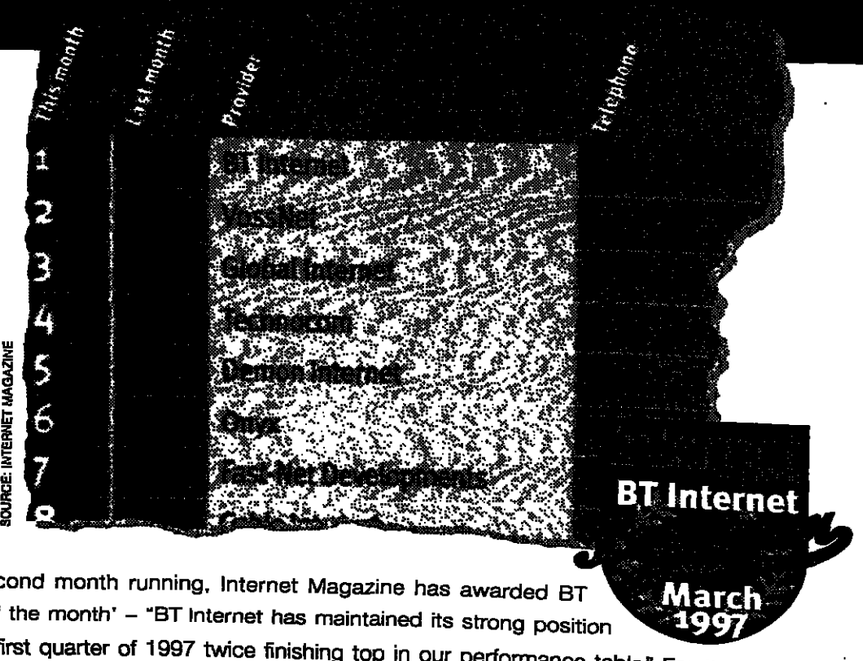
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CHANGING TIMES

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Shares squeezed sharply higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
558	407½	Allied Domecq	451	+ 6	6.5	13.6
625	477	Bellnor (HP)	620		2.7	18.5
131	69½	Burn Stewart	70½	+ 1½	6.9	7.9
1085	815	Glenmorangie A	1035		4.8	15.7
486	411	Grand Metr	473	+ 7	4.2	15.3
463	424	Highland	426½	+ 6½	4.8	14.8
380	315	Highland Dist	361	+ 12	2.9	17.4
800	255½	Matthew Clark	800		2.9	15.4
141	91½	Morgan W	106	- ½	4.2	16.8
2612½	1375	SA Brewries	1868½	+ 16½	1.9	-

BANKS

4706½	3743½	ABN-AMRO	4481½	+ 12½	2.6	18.5
811	528	Abbey Nat	775½	+ 10½	4.3	13.4
455½	315	Allied Irish	434½	+ ½	4.2	-
409½	285	Anz New Z	380½	+ ½	5.0	-
7606½	3843½	Bank America	7250	+112½	-	-
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	353½	+ 1½	2.6	13.0
1226	683	Barclaysref	1142½	+ ½	3.5	11.2
531½	413	Bk of Ireland	519½	+ ½	3.4	14.6
7896½	4031½	Chicorp	7575	+237½	-	-
1590½	1268½	Commercial	1584½	+ 6½	2.7	-
1350	609½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	668½	+ 16½	0.7	-
3412½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3366½	+ 93½	1.9	-
900	560½	Espirito Santo	900		3.8	12.6
1507	880½	Fuji Bank Y	1478½	+ 26½	0.6	-
1586½	931	HSBC	1586½	+ 26½	3.4	13.6
1644	930	HSBC HK	1543	+ 24	3.4	13.1
600	385	Irish Presnt	600		2.7	-
534	394½	Lloyds TSB	524½	- 1½	3.1	16.4
3179½	2561	Mid Amer Bk	2788	+ 7½	5.3	10.6
844½	605½	Nat Westr	790	+ 8	4.8	11.3
632½	464	Rg Bk Scot	603½	+ 9½	3.8	12.4
696	547	Standd Chart	692½	+ 19½	2.1	16.8
1174½	1131½	Wells Fargo	1164½		3.0	-
324½	264	Westpac	347½	+ 3½	3.9	11.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

878½	702	Bass	854½	+ ½	3.7	16.8
70	48	Bk for the Bst	64		3.4	17.5
208	161	Burtonwd Brw	198½		3.7	17.0
153	92	Coy Cstles Rets	153	+ 1	1.8	28.8
744½	483	Compass (gp)	722	+ 7	1.5	29.6
290½	190	Eldridge P A	288½	+ 1	1.1	27.7
540	413	Fstr Sn A	480		2.4	16.0
636	545½	Greenalls Gp	560	- ½	3.4	17.5
1253	1045½	Greene King	1145½	+ 9	2.7	18.3
786	564½	Grosvenor Rest	2100		3.5	16.8
385	304	Groupe Chez Gr	363½	+ 2	1.3	27.7
467	376½	Hardy Hanson	2935½		4.5	13.3
3470	2700	Hilton	2782½		2.6	14.9
77	45	Inn Spotlesst	76½		-	-
356	298	Mansfield	356		3.2	16.4
359½	252	Minton Thmp	294	- 5	3.2	11.0
695	524	Morland	605	+ 5	2.8	15.9
1885½	1618	My Kinda Town	1868		2.0	16.4
77½	39½	Paramount	39½		-	-
636	217	Pizza Express	634		0.8	41.4
438	345	Ransomes (Hl)	410	+ ½	1.5	-
1124	1000	Regnts Insst	1047½	+ ½	0.9	33.2
700	601	Scot & Newc	673	+ 3	3.7	20.4
313	246	Vaux Group	284½	+ ½	4.7	13.5
1755	648	Wetherspoon JD	1167½	+ 10	1.0	26.6
1455	1170	Whitbread	1408		2.1	20.8
706½	578	Wolverhpton D	700½	+ ½	2.6	16.6
477½	397	Yates Bros	477½		3.0	30.9
650	425	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

34½	15	ANF Indls	25½		-	-
202	135	Abbey	196		3.6	20.8
297½	212½	Allen	285½		3.8	17.5
124½	95½	Amec	124	+ ½	3.8	20.9
489	117	Amey	479½	+ 7	1.3	30.3
552½	233	Andrews Sykes	490	- 2½	1.3	10.8
262½	162	Ashtead	258½		1.5	23.3
48½	26	Aronside	44		2.8	-
24	14	Bailey (Jose) Con	22		3.6	14.9
399½	184	Bardt	380		2.5	19.5
64½	34	Barcon	58½		3.6	33.6
297½	219	Barratt Devs	281½	+ 1	3.7	15.8
213	163½	Beazer	197		3.8	16.8
381½	249	Bellway	356		2.9	15.1
15½	14½	Bellwfdsh	20½		-	-
754½	483	Berkeley Gp	754	+ 6	1.4	18.9
175	133	Bett Bros	161		4.3	4.9
288	175	Blue (Henry)	250		3.7	10.9
133	97½	Bovis Hm Pnt	94½		3.2	13.1
35½	19	Brdmds Gp	30		6.7	-
78	31	Br Bldg & Eng	59½	+ 1	-	-
199	104	Bryant	144½	+ ½	4.4	20.2
155½	88	CALA	122½		3.6	15.9
30	5	Campbell & Ann	17½		-	-
71½	37	Clarke T	61½	+ 1½	8	11.5
103	39	Crostrw-A	45		-	-
95	51	Countrywide	93		3.1	27.0
94	54½	Crest Nicholson	93	+ 1	3.6	-
88	65½	Cruden	85½	+ 1	5.8	13.5
230	118	Evt Group	172½		3.1	-
33	15	Galliford	28	+ 1	6.4	21.3
937½	733	Gleeson (MJ)	927½		2.2	17.3
61	35½	Green (Ernst)	58½		6.6	17.8
379	265	Hawtrbck Estn	256½		1.6	22.4
163	119	Henderson Sport	143½		2.1	18.8
22	15	Howard Hldgs	17½	- 1	5.7	18.7
204	22	Jarvis	197	+ 1½	1.0	-
202½	126	Kellar	197½		2.8	16.4
256½	177½	Kier	242½	- 1	3.4	15.6
293	244½	Lang (J)	316½	+ 4	3.6	-
120½	97	Lang 6.4% Cn Pf	119½		6.9	-
21	6¼	Lovell (Yjl)	18½		-	-
218	162½	Maunders (J)	190		3.8	15.8
197	125½	McAlpine (J)	150½	+ ½	5.5	-
119½	66	McCarthy & S	117½		2.4	17.3
280	164	Mckenney	60		1.6	25.3
1357½	81	Morgan Sindall	213½		2.5	-
284½	122	Morrison Cons	282½		2.1	21.9
1359	581½	Mowlem (J)	135	+ 10	2.8	15.1
357½	173	Persimmon	351½	+ ½	4.5	27.7
158	85	Pochin	125		2.3	10.7
145	97	Powdrlg	143½		3.3	47.5
30	12	Raine Ind	17		-	13.3
178½	113	Redrow	178		3.3	20.7
320	258	Shanly Hldgs	295		3.1	15.7
32	25	Stanley	30		3.3	14.8
378	327½	Spandex	330		11.1	19.2
103	72½	Stein Hll	95½	- ½	3.2	-
159	106½	Tay Homes	142		6.2	62.1
194½	115	Taylor Woodrw	191	- ½	1.9	30.7
587	435	Tilbury Dougls	560		4.5	17.7
21½	10½	Try Group	20½		-	-
103	58½	Vibroplant	73½		6.8	-
134½	65	Wimpenson	126½		4.4	-
64½	35½	Wood Hdgs	61½		-	-
49½	32½	Wooldg	47½		3.0	22.7
10½	4½	Wrigleys	10½	+ ½	-	43.2
190	147	Wilson (C)	152		3.9	21.8
582½	354	Wilson Bowdn	522½	+ 6½	2.4	24.6
160	121½	Wimpey (I	156½	- ½	5.1	52.7

BUILDING MATERIALS

393	294	BPB	348½	+ 4	3.8	16.8
124	91	Baggeridge Brk	108½		3.8	26.9
62	39½	Beattie	57½		8.7	16.2
68	27½	Blacking	50½		-	-
419½	302	Blue Circle	419½	+ 8	3.8	30.4
97	77	Brandon PLC	88½	+ 1½	6.8	14.7
140½	108	Br Dredging	140		5.0	16.1
673	473	CRH	633½	- 4	1.1	-
48	32½	Caradonal Rty	47½		5.3	13.4
192½	140	Cape	184½	- ½	7.5	-
274½	195½	Caradon	271½	- ½	4.4	30.2
134½	108	Caradon pf	132½		7.8	-
85½	79	Chilcott Grp	79½	- 1½	7.9	-
256	198	Dyson (A&J)	257½	- 2½	2.4	15.2
146	70	Dyson 'A'	130½		4.8	7.7
7½	2½	Evolution	2½		-	-
265	208	Ewbk	265	+ 5	4.6	-
183½	115½	Fitzpatrick	179½	+ 1½	-	-
96½	80½	Gibbs & Dandy	96½		4.7	9.5
209	121	Graham Grp	198½	+ 1	5.1	27.5
406	341½	Halstead (J)	347½		3.5	14.8
437½	272	Hanson	391	+ 14	5.9	-
321	244½	Hepworth	251	+ ½	7.1	15.0
59	37	Hunting	39½	+ 1	4.2	15.3
262	215	Howard Mch	254		6.8	12.3
79	58½	Ibstock	76½		3.6	15.6
515	335	Johnston	515		2.8	20.0
88	65	Lilleshall	82½	+ 1	4.7	-
155	111	Marley	124	+ 1½	4.7	18.2
184	122½	MacAlpine	131		5.0	14.1
471	347½	Meyer Int	408	+ 3	3.5	36.4
169½	99	Mowlem Tstc	128		5.9	-
105	81½	Norcros	94		3.4	-
29	14½	Pearce Timber	19½		1.8	44.2
223	129	Pilkington	145½	+ ½	4.8	23.5
364½	174½	Polypipe	356	- ½	1.5	22.0
1196½	878½	RMC Gp	1008½	+ 14	3.2	17.7
479½	322	Redland	364	+ 5½	5.7	17.9
123	77	Redpl	87	- 1	6.6	9.1
153	87½	Robrsnsn	111		6.9	15.8
948	915	Rugby Group	1029		3.2	19.1
131	92½	Ruskin (A)	107½		2.2	17.4
312½	196	SIG	312½		-	-
4½	2½	SWP	3½		-	-
232½	156	Sharpe & Fisher	231½		2.9	30.8
21	10½	Spring Ram	17½		-	-
230	175	Staveley Hldgs	182½		5.3	12.4
136	95	Tarmac	133		6.7	-
147	81½	Tilbn	139		4.5	12.8
536	350	Travis Perkins	535		2.2	17.8
459	259	Tudor	445		3.0	20.9
511½	415	Wellseley	497	+ 3½	2.5	17.1

CHEMICALS

307½	149	Albright & Wil	158	+ 6	5.2	13.4
142½	103½	Allied Colloids	128	+ 1½	3.8	22.9
210	117	Amber Ind	120		6.0	10.2
109½	66	Amberley Gp	98½		1.9	19.4
3	0½	Anglo Vnt	2	- ½	-	8.0
2448½	1443½	BASF DM	2306½	- 9½	2.8	-
1027½	819	BOC	1026	+ 9	3.5	17.7
334½	248	BTP	288		4.9	15.2
2681½	1716½	Bayer DM50	2655½	+ 37½	2.0	-
1139½	783	Bayer Chems	93	+ 2½	3.2	27.7
2439½	1859½	Br Vita	2081	- 1	4.8	34.2
192½	162	Bramwr Mood	168	+ ½	6.4	9.3
2598½	1952	Ciba Geigy	2077½		3.4	17.4
232½	182½	City Technology	220		-	-
466½	380	Coalvisbts	386	+ 1½	3.9	14.5
373	284	Croda	355½		3.0	14.8
317½	209½	Dwflex	295		3.8	14.8
329½	245	Elm & Frwcrft	313½		4.3	13.0
94	80½	Euro Colour	86		4.3	13.0
197	92½	Gelson	97½	- 1	10.0	7.2
93	52	Hickson	86½		-	-
2948½	1750	Hoechst	2768½	+ 46½	1.7	-
155	102	Holliday Chem	138	+ 1½	4.9	22.0
950	716½	ICI	748	- 3½	5.3	14.3
198	170½	Inspec	174	+ 2½	4.8	9.3
147	108½	Kalon	127	+ 2	4.8	-
782	625	Laporte	671	+ 2	4.3	16.8
205	185	Meggitts	185		2.7	10.6
180	76	Mecklenr	87½		2.3	19.8
37	25	Metrotect	31	- ½	2.4	-
232	193	Porvair	200		2.4	-
274	216½	Scapa	224	+ 1	3.6	12.1
34	23	Sutcliffe Speak	24	-	5.0	7.8
1333½	927½	Takeda Chem	1242½	- 17½	0.8	20.7
1133	597½	Wiltshire R	647½	+ 8	4.7	12.0
296	185	Yorks Chm	186		5.9	10.5
399	305	Yule Catto	359½	+ ½	2.9	16.9

DISTRIBUTORS

270½	179½	Acteon Gp Spls	194½	+ 2	-	29.7
465	287½	Adam & Harvey	350		7.2	6.0
21½	10½	Alexandrs(I	12	- ½	1.0	-
113	66½	Applevard	68		11.4	7.8
4	3	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.3	-
680	565	BSS Group	631		4.8	15.6
25	14½	Bearnd Power	16		-	-
45	33	Bagnall A	39½		2.5	11.1
686	436	Bremner	615½	+ 1	3.0	17.5
26½	18	Bridgend Gp	23		1.1	-
172	75	Brit Vitrings	99½		4.7	12.6
310	245	Calsyns	306		2.9	15.5
194½	152½	Car Group	170½		9.3	8.5
180	165	Cawdrdale	165		5.6	12.0
107½	72½	Charles Sidney	88		4.5	6.6
79	51½	Cook (DC)	57½		9.0	7.5
175	94½	Dng Meths	100½		2.5	14.7
163	129½	Dickinsons B	130½		4.8	13.9
434	328	Diploma	374½		-	-

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

459	288	Aaronsons	396	- 5	1.6	15.4
1057	763	Abbot Mings	1049		2.1	23.7
1066	785	Bnsn Hld	839½	+ ½	2.5	18.9
349	259	BTR	296½	+ 7	4.8	13.9
588	411	BWT	549	+ 18	6.1	11.5
1049	708	Bibby (J)	1019	+ 53	5.2	10.6
65	50½	Bradley Inv	59½		7.8	10.0
972	715	Charter	761½	- 1½	4.6	10.8
339	265	Cookson	295	+ 5½	4.7	16.3
1139	841	Cossar	1139		3.6	16.3
204	204	DCC	204		2.4	16.9
1129	1089	Grampian Hldg	1125	+ 1½	4.2	12.9
1729	1185	Hanson Deutz	139	+ 2½	8.1	13.7
5695	3795	Hutch Whampo	468	+ 22	2.2	19.2
4537½	352	Imperial Tobacco	416	+ 9	6.0	8.3
5693½	3447½	Jardine Matn	5693½		2.1	-
2177½	1167½	Lonrho	1472½		4.0	13.4
191	164	McLeod Russel	172		4.9	14.0
478	388	Powell Dulfryn	455	+ ½	7.4	16.7
746	97	Ropner	145		7.1	12.5
232	183½	Shanley	197		6.4	12.7
1679	1253	Smiths Ind	1625	+ 1	3.4	14.7
1540	1184	Young (H)	1492½	+ 1	3.7	12.3

ELECTRICITY

163½	89	Br Energy P/P	139		7.2	-
737	479	East Midlands	670		5.9	9.9
570½	520	Energy Group	526½	+ 4½	6.0	10.6
872	565	London Elect	784½		7.3	10.8
217½	164½	Nthrnd Gnrl	213½	+ 1½	6.5	8.6
615	315	Northern Elec	554½	+ ½	6.4	6.0
724	484	Northern Elec	651		6.4	5.9
655	388	Nthn Ireland	582	+ ½	6.4	6.0
664	462	Powergen	624		4.5	7.3
372	271½	Hydro-Elect	370	+ ½	5.5	10.9
394½	295½	Scottish Power	366	+ 3½	5.6	10.9
457	304½	Southern Elec	440½	- 9	6.6	9.6
910	660	Yorkshire Elect	900	+ 4	6.0	11.9

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

562	471½	Acal	491½		2.2	16.1
311	182½	Aston Comp	193½	+ 3	-	-
414½	163½	Admiral	370	+ 2½	0.8	-
458	314	Anstead	419½		1.8	-
98	29½	Arotic Grp	90	+ 2	-	-
55½	33	Arlen	47½	- 2½	4.3	11.6
164½	110	Astec	144½		1.4	18.0
762	468	Aztec	680	- 34	0.8	18.9
282	246½	BICC	274½	+ 2½	5.9	-
252	151	Beales Hustert	155½		5.8	7.3
358	266	Bibby	352½	+ 1½	5.0	9.5
476	376½	Boothtype	379		3.2	15.9
24½	18½	Bolgin (AF) 'A'	12		4.7	4.9
148½	97½	Cmbl Mtrls	140½		5.2	14.4
39½	24	Chatwd Hldgs	38	+ ½	4.6	14.8
43	23½	Chloride	41½		1.5	21.3
82	52½	Clayhithe	72½	- 2	5.9	8.5
982	650	Crtpthny	698	- 15	2.1	19.5
1062	695	Dwtrs Bs Syst	1035	- 17½	0.5	40.1
464	332½	Delta	445½	- 8½	4.5	15.1
458	255	Domnion	335		4.1	15.6
95½	64	Dowding Mills	85	- 2½	4.4	17.5
370	154	Druck	273		0.8	30.4
3999½	2618½	Electrocm 'B'	3943½	+ 31½	2.6	-
35	18½	Elmstrs	25		1.0	25.3
21025½	11125	Enssnm 'B'	20885½	+ 62½	1.0	-
92	58	Eurocopy	89		4.8	10.7
545	458½	Eurotherm	466		2.4	16.8
697½	338	Fairey Group	630		1.6	21.9
1847	1715	Filtronic Dupt	1825½		0.2	-
293½	192	Forward Gp	233		1.2	15.9
100	24	Forward Tech	25		13.0	5.0
414	341	GEC	385½	+ 1½	4.1	18.2
148	113	Gooday	145		5.7	25.0
312½	74½	Gresham Mtr	120	+ 2½	2.5	13.9
1429	1181	Hall Engg	1325	+ 2½	6.2	12.8
131	94	Hasle	112½	+ 7½	2.8	-
57	34	HPA Ind	38½		6.3	12.9
358	245	Hawker-Sid	318		3.4	18.2
72	16½	Helphrs Tech	20½	+ ½	3.8	9.5
472	348	Hiltd	425		-	-
548	405	Oxford Instr	414		2.0	14.7
248½	89	Pace Micrel	108½	- 8½	2.7	12.2
180	134½	Pwr Indstrl	165	- 6½	2.4	18.1
18	7	Prosl	16		6.9	12.6
3003½	1853½	Philips Lmp Hv	3003½	+ 59½	1.7	-
229	141	Plessey	175½	- 4	3.7	9.9
242	164	Pleasrtn	212½		0.3	26.4
245	137½	Pressac	227½	- ½	2.1	21.3
48	31½	Rotadrill	47	+ 1½	2.1	18.1
470	298½	Rotork	458	+ 3½	0.5	37.6
348	220	Racal Elect	288	+ 1	2.8	21.6
119½	78	Redarmc	107½		3.8	20.5
468½	316½	Redstone	368		2.7	16.5
2½	1	Rollnet	2½		-	-
316	123	Renbrn	153½	- 1	4.0	9.9
233½	160	SGB Bus Sys	212	+ 4½	1.3	39.2
437	317	Servomex	410		2.4	21.7
32	22	Shrpnthms	27½		1.1	17.4
4233½	3003½	TDK	4039½	+ 34½	0.7	-
116	78½	TSI	76½	- 4	5.5	8.1
172	82½	TLG	118		4.5	13.2
219	29½	Talpole Tech	26	- 3	-	-
134	51	Telcmobile	124	- 5½	3.2	11.8
335	135	Tetronic	197½	- 5	3.4	-
245	139½	Thorpe FW	148½	+ 3	3.6	12.6
38	20	Toco Systems	36		5.6	11.9
380	197½	Trysnsil	215	+ ½	6.1	9.0
52½	9½	Vinity	49½		0.4	-
273	170½	Vero	188½		3.4	19.3
480	383	Wales	412		6.2	12.2
36	10½	Waterbourne	12		-	-
1844½	665½	Wassall	173	- 1	1.8	50.0

ENGINEERING

500	277	AMF	495½		1.8	17.5
998½	99	APV	71		4.8	-
99	28½	ASW	36		2.8	-
457	305	Alumascr	308	+ 2½	3.2	13.4
175	101	Altek	131	+ 2½	2.9	14.5
282½	164½	Ash & Lacy	280½		4.2	15.0
838	602½	Atlas Equip	832½		4.3	13.6
148	92½	Aprshwr Mstd	135½		2.4	33.9
1370½	994	BBA	1349	+ 5	3.3	16.7
163	117½	BMI	116½		7.1	9.6
145	44½	Babcock	63	- 1½	3.8	-
119½	6	Bailey (Gn)	10½		-	7.4
144	98	Baynes (Charles)	128		2.8	18.8
64½	24	Bamford	36½		2.2	10.8
60	36	Bateaux Group	52½	+ 1	1.2	-
224	102½	Bntsford Ind	133½		4.2	22.5
196	87	Bilton	87		6.9	-
379	258	Bodycote	282½		1.1	32.5
48	35½	Booth Jnts	42½		-	-
24	17	Bosneret	25½		4.2	9.9
130	98	Bridon	117		-	-
1356	787	Br Aerospace	1346½	+ 9½	1.5	19.2
1397	1097	Br Steel	1344½	+ ½	8.1	5.8
155	109½	Brooke Tool	134	- ½	2.8	8.6
38	15½	Brunel	18		3.8	12.3
178	67½	Bulnsght	169		1.2	24.9
1787	92	Burndpht	172½	- 2	2.4	25.9
187½	107½	Cardo Engt	185	+ ½	7.1	9.8
171	107	Castings	278½		2.8	17.6
193	155	Chamberlin Hll	170		6.3	11.8
855	655	Chemring	816		2.6	16.9
1794	1294	Clarke Blowers	1337½	- 3½	3.0	16.3
671	471	Coblnsn	562½	+ 10	2.1	22.1
885	360	Cohen (A)	480		5.8	11.1
208	175	Cmbrdge	208		3.8	14.0
435	215	Cook (Wm)	421		3.8	14.0
252½	189	David Brown	197½		5.0	11.7
396	320	Dbs	364		4.5	13.1
31	8½	Disco	14		4.2	-
1½	1	Dobson (B)	1½		-	-
1½	1	Dobson (D)	1½		-	-
98	38	Expamet	116		3.4	20.6
217	153	FKI	195½	+ 5½	3.5	15.1
180	130	Fenner	171½	- 1	2.9	22.7
2	1½	Forum	2½		-	-
94	55½	Firth Rtsnort	83		1.9	23.7
152	104½	GB Int	135½		5.2	10.3
222	160	Garton Eng	204		5.7	6.3
338	280	Glynwed	296½		5.3	12.9
170	107½	Gloystone	128	- 3½	6.2	8.1
1167	711½	Hadon Mcln	1107½		2.5	16.8
1356	1127	Hall Mathwn	1356		2.2	19.2
1379	1179	Hall Eng	1379		2.2	19.2
1729	1185	Hanson Ind	1729	- 1	4.2	16.4
52	23	Hawtin (Norman)	25½		-	30.5
51	28	Headway	41		9.8	10.1
117	58½	Hill & Smith	105½		5.0	15.1
41	26	Hopkinsons	36		2.5	27.5
55½	31½	Hsr Gp	53	+ 1	4.4	10.7
64	35½	Howden	55		6.5	-
186	110	Hunting	185		4.1	19.1
365	311	IMI	365	+ 11	4.1	19.1
537½	395	Johnson Mtth	537½		3.4	15.4
64½	29	Jones Stphnsnt	54½		3.6	5.5
467½	364	Kenny Ind	467½		6.4	15.1
635	340	Kvaerner	559½		4.5	13.1
268	178	Lindsll	259½		4.5	14.1
494	159	Locker (T)	471½		2.3	17.2
47½	34	Mk Hdgs	43		4.2	65.2
36	16½	MS Int	20½	+ 1	3.7	26.8
481½	377	Meng Beaton	457½		3.9	17.1
604	399	McKechnie	577½	+ 1	3.9	15.2
114½	64	Metgrfb	107½		4.6	17.9
1189	984	Met

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Brit Potentials Inc 85.31 90.75 + 0.56 4.41
Global Opps 106.30 113.10 + 0.60
Balanced Acc 67.43 71.74 + 0.42 2.41
Balanced Inc 62.97 66.98 + 0.40 2.41
Japan Acc 37.47 39.87 + 0.43
Pac Basin Acc 411.10 437.40 + 0.30 0.63

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
01345 717 373
Gilts & Fixed Int 133.50 141.70† - 0.40 5.71
High Inc Equity 198.70 213.60 + 1.50 4.45
Worldwide Bond 269.20 285.50† + 0.40 4.21
American Growth 435.90 463.90 + 5.10 0.26
Asian Pacific 340.60 364.30 + 0.90 0.38
Assets & Earnings 327.80 350.60 + 2.30 2.99
Euro Capital Acc 206.30 229.90 + 3.50 0.72
Euro Inc 83.07 45.32† + 0.14 7.99
General 295.90 314.80† + 2.90 2.97
Global Opps 75.99 80.73 + 0.68 0.50
Japan 88.56 94.74 - 1.09
Managed Inc 49.80 53.05† + 0.21 4.24
Monetarist 177.70 190.10 + 1.00 1.26
US Emerging Cos 193.00 205.30 + 2.00
Ethical 89.28 95.08 + 0.21 1.65
International 161.80 150.90 + 0.80 0.56
Dividend & Growth 73.61 78.31 + 0.51 4.29
Globus Gwth & Sec 74.75 79.93 - 0.01 2.53
Latin America 81.27 86.45 + 0.29 0.45
Capital Reserve 147.90 148.00 4.60

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 4500
M&P UK Growth 98.96 105.30 + 0.90 2.38
Equity Income 139.10 147.90 + 1.40 4.08
Extra Income Acc 289.10 286.20 + 2.10 6.27
Smaller Cos 115.90 129.20 + 0.20 1.44
International 119.10 126.70 + 1.00 1.34

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733
UK Small Cos 2600.00 2701.00 +20.00

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580
Amer Inc & Growth 65.67 68.15 + 0.32 0.14
Emerging Mkts 80.21 83.54 + 0.20 0.04
European 165.10 171.80† + 2.00
Extra Income # 92.16 54.90† + 0.56 5.93
Far East Emrg Eco 132.90 139.40 - 0.10 0.45
Fixed Interest # 26.74 27.81† - 0.01 9.74
Fxed Int Tst # 109.90 129.40 + 0.60 9.26
Japan 155.30 161.30 + 1.10
Latin American 69.71 72.54 + 0.34 0.67
Pacific 82.25 86.35 - 0.02 0.30
Property Share 82.71 86.83 + 0.16 2.82
UK Emerging Cos 74.20 80.09 + 0.60 1.05
UK Growth 60.62 63.34 + 0.63 1.85
Alan World Port # 87.61 89.53 + 0.65 2.78
Ethical 63.20 65.53 + 0.34 2.04
Aberdeen Gilt Inc # 50.29 50.32† - 0.06 7.37

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868
Restd Property # 99.17 105.50† 5.38

ALLCHURCHES IWV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958
Amer Income 98.94 104.98† + 0.46 1.93
Income Builder Inc 87.80 93.40 + 0.72 3.83

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 356 Client dlg: 01793 514 514
Balanced Trusts
Growth & Income 313.70 335.30 + 2.20 2.77
Capital 562.60 601.40 + 3.40 1.05
Balanced 907.80 970.40 + 7.00 2.51
Accumulator 1758.00 1879.00 +14.00 1.60
Income Trusts
American Income 71.86 76.61† + 0.56 2.08
High Income 498.50 532.80† + 3.50 4.01
Equity Income 351.90 301.30 + 2.00 3.69
High Yield 305.90 326.90 + 2.10 3.67
Govt Secs Income 35.62 37.61† - 0.04 5.81
International Trusts
Amer Spec Sits 249.70 268.10 + 1.30 0.04
European Growth 61.76 65.90†† + 0.63 0.06
International 197.20 210.70† + 0.80 0.10
Japan 157.30 168.10 + 2.20
Pacific 403.80 431.40 + 2.20 0.06
Secs of America 658.50 701.00 + 5.40 0.11
Wrldw Asset Val 58.53 62.56†† + 0.17 0.02
Specialist Trusts
Asset Value 707.20 755.90 + 5.40 1.81
Cons & Gen 54.44 58.19†† + 0.24 3.64
Smaller Cos 204.80 240.30 + 0.80 0.95
2nd Smaller Cos 213.30 228.00†† + 0.70 0.81
Recovery 184.20 196.90 + 1.60 1.43
Mid Min & Cnty 169.20 180.80 + 0.90 0.17
Ocass Earnings 465.10 497.10† + 4.30 0.98
Technology 222.70 238.00 + 0.30
UK Special Sits 645.40 689.90†† + 3.40 0.91

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911
Enhncd Out Pens 125.30 130.10
Foundtn Pens Pens 74.04 76.92

BSA-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 500 0033
Capital 94.53 100.60 + 1.21 0.75
International 71.59 76.15

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242
America 372.60 396.60 + 1.20
Bond 121.30 127.70 - 0.60 6.39
Bnt Smlr Cos 122.40 130.20 + 0.30 1.71
Conv & Gen # 70.98 75.51† + 0.11 5.11
Europe 338.00 326.90 + 1.70 0.10
Euro Smlr Cos 129.70 137.70 + 0.10 0.39
Income Gwth 402.40 428.10† + 2.60 4.36
Japan 264.10 280.70 - 3.10
Latin American 102.10 108.60 + 1.10 0.59
Pacific 120.80 128.50 - 0.20 0.50
UK Smlr Cos 80.91 84.80 - 0.04 1.22
Japan Fd 517.60 532.70† - 5.20
Mngd Fd 216.70 230.20 + 1.30 2

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673
Brit & Dmss 412.40 436.20 + 2.70 0.82
Capital Gwth 143.90 152.70 + 2.90 2.82
Wrwide Opps 243.10 257.10 + 0.50 0.84

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 522 4000
Balanced Trusts
Gwth & Inc Inc 469.60 499.60 + 4.30 1.96
European Bd Inc 98.58 102.10† - 0.20 5.93
Exempt 93.23 98.12 + 0.71 2.45
500 537.70 578.10† + 3.10 1.97
General 358.20 381.10 + 2.90 2.01
Property 255.50 274.20 - 4.89
Trustee 250.80 266.80 + 2.50 2.13
Income Trusts
Cash Inc 100.80 100.80 5.71
Distribution @# 119.50 120.10 + 0.40 5.87
Extra Income # 152.40 162.60 + 1.50 4.29
Gilt & Fxd Int 59.96 61.81† - 0.30 7.51
Income # 841.00 883.80† + 5.30 4.36
Income Builder # 73.80 78.59† + 0.44 5.01
Intl Income 77.12 82.05 + 0.69 1.92
Growth Trusts - UK
Capital 156.50 166.50† + 1.10 1.74
FTSE 100 112.30 116.90† + 1.30 2.41
Leisure 189.50 202.10 + 1.10 0.66
Recovery 545.50 587.80 + 4.10 2.12
Smlr Cos Inc 88.45 97.68 + 0.17 2.05
Special Sits 451.30 480.10 + 3.70 1.73
Growth Trusts - Overseas
America 197.80 209.30 + 2.80 0.35
F East Gwth Acc 309.40 328.10 - 0.10
Far East Gwth 182.90 194.60 - 0.10 0.10
Euro Gwth Inc 289.00 298.20 + 3.10 0.49
-do- Accum 226.30 234.40 + 2.20 0.49
Japan 111.40 118.30† - 1.60
-do- Accum 112.80 119.70 - 1.60
Japan Spec Sits 53.20 56.70 - 0.65
Worldwide 206.30 219.30 + 1.40 0.48

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
01279 214 1004
American Growth 150.80 159.30 + 2.80
Amer Small Cos 150.70 161.40 + 1.90
Convertibles 52.69 55.68 + 0.14 4.40
Eastern 305.60 327.60 - 0.70 0.30
Equity Income # 109.62 117.30† + 1.10 4.10
European Growth 405.00 432.30 + 7.30 0.80
Europe 408.00 434.40 + 2.20 0.80
German Growth 95.19 100.80 + 0.70 0.50
Global Bond 71.71 75.42 - 0.20
Global Growth 152.60 162.00 + 1.60 0.40
Japan Growth 169.20 170.30 - 1.20
Japan Smaller 116.10 123.10 - 1.10
Korea Inst 48.69 52.65 - 0.33
Portfolio 158.80 169.60† + 1.30 2.00
-do- Accum 303.00 323.60 + 2.40 2.00
UK Growth 119.50 128.10 + 0.60 2.00
UK Smaller Cos 109.70 118.90 + 0.40 1.90
Select Managers 94.30 101.10 + 0.60 1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300
Intl Gwth Port Inc 93.16 99.11†
Special Oppor Inc 67.76 72.09†

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020
Balanced Growth 160.24 169.56 - 0.53 1.36
-do- Accum 186.51 197.37 - 0.61 1.36
Smaller Cos 177.70 188.34 + 1.12 0.41
Higher Yield # 62.37 66.09 + 0.46 3.91
American Gth Inc 114.45 121.13† + 0.46
European Growth 180.58 191.51† + 2.01 0.09
-do- Accum 184.98 195.56 + 2.06 0.09
Mngd Portfolio Inc 58.24 61.60 + 0.29 1.21
-do- Accum 60.43 63.92 + 0.30 1.21
Inc Spec Opps 185.33 196.11 + 0.84
Pacific Gth 163.95 173.49 + 0.21
UK Growth # 109.08 115.40 + 1.20 2.91
-do- Accum # 118.34 125.23 + 1.30 2.91
Japan 45.27 47.90† - 0.78
Gilt & Fixed Int # 102.69 106.42† - 0.64 8.20

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216
Share Dated Sel 64.29 65.11† - 0.02 6.61

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5980
Envsion 201.50 212.10 + 1.10 1.70
Gb Growth 231.20 243.30† + 2.10 2.10
UP Income 163.10 171.70 + 1.00 4.02

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100
Can Gen Dist 251.10 266.10†† + 2.40 1.49
-do- Income Dist 138.30 146.80 + 1.60 3.41
-do- Accum 452.60 479.70 + 5.10 3.41
Gilt & Fxd Int 41.28 43.39† + 0.06 6.37
Growth Units 253.20 267.70 + 3.20 1.83
Bond 178.50 187.90† - 0.50 6.80
Intl Growth 242.60 256.40 + 0.90 0.18
North American 262.20 298.90 + 3.60 0.06
Far East 325.10 347.70 - 0.10 0.56
Uk Smaller Cos 355.60 373.40 + 1.00 1.05
European 100.20 109.60 + 1.40 0.46
Japanese Growth 36.69 38.26 + 0.51 2.27
High Income 243.00 259.50 + 2.00 3.92

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455
American & Gen 240.90 256.30 + 3.60
European Inc 105.00 111.30 + 1.40 0.22
Smaller Cos (4-1) 119.90 127.60† + 0.10 1.27
Growth 806.90 645.70† + 4.70 1.93
Income & Growth # 504.80 532.20† + 5.00 3.47
-do- Accum # 774.10 823.60 + 7.70 3.47
Japan & Gen 96.15 102.30 + 0.70 5.10
Hallmark Gwth 213.20 213.85 +12.00 1.68
-do- Accum 216.47 217.16 +14.00 1.68
Special Sits 140.00 149.00 + 1.00 1.82
High Yield 216.30 218.90 +15.00 3.91

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708
Cazenove Portfolio 109.95 116.23 + 0.78 2.13
American Portfolio 139.20 143.56 + 1.31 1.00
European Portfolio 151.82 161.31 + 1.10 0.58
High Income 53.29 55.43† - 0.10 7.10
Japanese Portfolio 53.96 57.23† - 0.59

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	165.89	179.46 -	0.09	0.74
UK Equity	106.24	113.42 -	0.87	3.18
UK Equity & Bd	82.15	85.83 -	0.37	6.17
Un Smlr Cos	58.10	60.01† -	0.22	1.57

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815
Inv Fund 823.99 886.45 4.06
Fxd Int Sec 161.95 162.59 8.80

CGNF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815
Investment Inc 810.04 822.28 - 3.70 4.18
Investment Acc 837.81 838.34 - 17.42
Fixed Int Inc 130.68 131.02 - 0.11 6.85
Fixed Int Acc 243.08 244.06 - 0.22

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5999
Blackmore Inf 88.94 93.75 5.34
Black Bio-Tech 46.65 50.83 - 1.37
Acorn Ethical Tst 182.92 202.58 0.42
City Fin Assets 83.54 87.72 1.78
City Fin Intl 81.56 85.15 0.13
Finsbury Hse Cap 327.80 346.51 2.28
Buckley Wrld Gth 143.27 151.87† -
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc 81.23 84.30 + 0.16 3.23
Silver Options 86.98 88.35 + 0.30 6.49

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 6771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 60.05 63.71† + 0.21

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233
American Gwth 84.95 90.37 + 0.77
Dragon Growth 75.05 80.06 - 0.10 0.28
Equity High Inc 99.54 106.60† + 0.93 3.56
-do- Accum 145.83 156.26 + 1.37 3.56
Extra Income Inc 97.39 39.85 - 0.11 6.86
Extra Income Acc 38.57 32.20 - 0.13 6.86
European Gwth 69.09 73.31 + 0.13 0.37
Evergreen 32.14 34.37 + 0.18
Fledgeling Gwth 69.78 74.71 + 0.42 1.58
Pref Shr Cons Inc 41.27 44.38 + 0.15 7.03
-do- Accum 44.00 47.31 + 0.16 1.03
Retirement Inc # 30.30 32.27 + 0.19 5.47
Special Sits 61.31 65.17 + 0.23 7.47
UK & Overseas 64.11 68.02 + 0.59 0.53

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000
Balanced 74.68 78.09† + 0.46 3.87
Capital 90.72 94.49† + 0.78 2.42
High Income 53.63 55.76† - 0.23 6.47
Top 50 62.51 65.11† + 0.66 2.36

COMMERCIAL UNION TRST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds
Equity Inc 213.09 221.99 + 1.83 4.14
Long Gilt 45.16 47.02 - 0.16 5.67
Monthly Inc Plus 52.53 54.72 - 0.11 8.19
Preference Share 50.38 52.48 - 0.11 7.43
Balanced Funds
High Yield 154.72 161.18 + 1.32 5.29
Managed Fund 81.02 84.40 + 0.50 2.83
UK Growth Funds
Smaller Cos 57.81 60.23 + 0.24 1.58
-do- Accum 68.32 71.17 + 0.29 1.58
Uk & General 108.24 112.76 + 1.12 2.67
-do- Accum 142.43 148.36 + 1.49 2.67
UK Growth 218.09 227.20 + 2.33 1.24
International Growth Funds
Europe Growth 232.26 241.96 + 3.70 0.60
Far Eastern Gth 131.22 136.70 - 0.36 0.62
Global Bond 75.41 78.56 - 0.09 6.31
Japan Growth 92.15 96.00 - 0.56
North Amer Gth 257.35 278.52 + 3.67
Oriental Growth 87.97 91.64 - 0.03 0.25
Worldwide Growth 76.21 79.39 + 0.62
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)
Deposit Fund 93.08 93.08 + 0.01 5.31
Homemaker Fund 95.56 101.67† + 0.74 2.12
Quilter Fund 167.80 178.53† + 2.02 2.02

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5995
Consistent UT 38.21 40.81† + 0.47 3.87

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 525 356
Growth 197.70 210.30 + 0.80 1.32
Income 77.32 82.26† + 0.34 4.24
European 81.51 86.71 + 1.04 0.30
Recovery 198.40 211.10 + 0.20 2.52

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 280 9494
Equity Dist 1054.70 1070.10 3.26

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 600 370
Fellowship Tst 119.40 127.00 + 0.50 1.08
Income # 307.20 326.80 + 3.00 4.09
-do- Accum # 820.20 872.50 + 8.10 4.29
Smaller Cos 349.40 365.30 + 0.50 0.90
-do- Accum 310.80 330.60 + 0.60 0.90
Gth Portfolio 108.40 115.30† + 1.00 7.24
High Inc Port # 89.39 95.09† + 0.62 4.00

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1534
Global Sm Cos 1727.60 1759.50† + 18.50
UK Small Cos 2366.80 2447.40 + 7.90 2.70

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819
Disc Inc 246.30 258.20 3.14

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 885
UK Balanced Inc 187.80 199.70 + 0.50 1.82
Uk High Inc Inc 184.90 207.30 + 0.30 3.44
-do- Accum 267.10 284.10 + 0.40 3.44
Uk Pref & Fi Inc 61.24 64.99 - 0.06 5.69
Economist Dpps 110.40 117.40 + 0.20 0.85
Uk Smlr Cos # 78.35 80.35† + 0.07 0.96
Extra Income Inc 51.08 54.34† - 0.04 6.29

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526
Convertibles # 23.75 25.29† + 0.12 5.55
Enterprise 115.40 122.30 + 0.20 2.04
Equity Income # 151.60 161.30† + 0.80 3.72
European 69.41 73.47 + 0.52 0.54
Financial 65.00 69.06 + 0.72 1.30
Growth & Inc # 311.30 330.80† + 2.50 2.65
High Dist # 193.20 205.30 + 1.20 4.14
International 446.00 473.90 + 1.00 0.11
Intl Cap Inc 112.80 120.20 + 0.20 2.25
Latin American 36.65 38.94 + 0.16
Pacific 67.27 92.72 + 0.06 7.26
Prel High Inc 23.32 24.78 + 0.08
Tokyo 179.80 190.40 - 2.30
Uk Smaller Cos 368.00 394.80 - 0.30 1.05
Dunedin Unit Trusts
Jap Smlr Co 320.40 339.50 - 1.70
Nth Amer 475.40 503.80 + 7.50 0.58
UK Inc & Gth 275.30 293.30 + 3.00 2.53

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 6042
ERI Director Disp 126.80 135.62 + 0.40 1.03
Growth Acc 282.90 301.40 - 5.01 0.64
Income 631.61 675.31† + 4.78 5.86

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7281
Endurance Fd 237.70 252.90 + 1.70 0.80

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480
European 89.34 104.57 + 0.56 1.57
Ethical Tst 48.91 51.48 + 0.03 0.86
Far Eastern 303.50 319.15 - 1.14 1.44
High Income 154.84 162.99 + 1.01 4.46
UK Index Tracing 56.66 59.63† + 0.51 2.90
Intl Growth 152.00 160.00† + 0.35 0.44
North American 163.54 172.15 + 0.59 1.64
Pelican 156.06 166.38 + 1.41 2.81
Smaller Cos 77.82 81.92 + 0.22 2.78
Special Sits 100.29 105.57 + 0.38 2.74
Fd of Inv Trs 230.34 242.46† + 1.13 1.25

For Evermore see Lawrence Keen

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144
Capital Growth 109.11 117.01 + 2.45
Fd of Inv Trs 56.80 60.56 + 0.49 0.48
High Income # 42.36 45.33 + 0.45 10.15
Warrant 49.14 53.61† + 0.26
Zero Preference 45.97 48.77 + 0.07

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 260 107
Family Assets Tst 104.10 110.70 + 0.70 2.30
United Charities 350.30 372.60 + 1.60 2.00

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callbox. Private Clients: 0800 414 181
Cash Fund
Cash Fund 100.00 100.00 5.60
Bond Funds
Intl Bond 26.94 27.92 - 0.03 5.23
Strategic Inc 28.16 29.41† 5.78
Income Funds
High Income 28.18 29.57† + 0.12 5.21
Income Plus 143.90 153.10† + 1.50 3.91
European Income 54.23 57.61† + 0.58 2.36
Uk Tax Eff 34.74 36.94† + 0.30 2.26
Equity Funds
ASEAN 64.45 68.75 + 0.07
American 362.90 387.20 + 4.70
Amer Spec Sits 193.20 206.60 + 2.80
Japan Smaller Cos 24.13 25.67† - 0.17
European 257.40 273.70 + 2.00 0.50
European Opps 90.56 96.22 + 1.21 0.02
Global Fds 35.49 37.74 + 0.37 0.30
UK Growth 135.90 144.60 + 0.80 1.35
Growth & Inc 198.60 211.20 + 1.60 2.36
Intl Pref 52.92 56.27 + 0.53 0.97
Japan Spec Sits 86.74 70.85† - 0.48
Japan 150.40 159.50 - 1.50
Managed Inc 381.50 405.40† + 4.10 0.46
Moneybuilder 70.10 74.54 + 0.41
Recovery 68.31 72.64 + 0.45 1.49
South E Asia 186.30 209.40 + 0.50 0.92
Special Sits 812.10 863.50 + 4.20 0.51
Specialist Funds
Cash Access Issue 118.12 118.12 + 0.01 5.60

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700
Balanced # 180.00 182.50† 1.47
Finsbury Pri Inc # 102.30 103.20† + 0.10 6.02
Cap Plato 172.00 174.40 + 1.40 1.27
General Opps 152.20 153.70 3.24
Growth Inc 40.79 41.19 + 0.44 1.28
Private Portfolio 514.00 521.50† 1.15

FORBERN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 600 380 Admin/Val 01277 600 350
Euro Smlr Cos 156.70 166.80 + 1.00 0.17
High Income 22.90 24.33† + 0.25 9.25
Japan Smlr Cos 14.54 15.56 - 0.04
US Smaller Cos 439.90 467.70 + 2.60

For Foster & Braithwaite see Quilter

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511
American Growth 84.40 89.81† + 1.27
-do- Accum 94.40 99.81† + 1.27
Amer Smlr Cos 673.60 720.40 + 6.80
-do- Accum 688.30 736.00 + 7.00
Capital Tst 431.70 456.30 + 2.50 0.50
-do- Accum 634.20 674.70 + 0.40 1.09
Cont Smlr Cos 84.54 89.00 + 0.50 1.31
-do- Accum 68.67 73.41 + 0.53 1.31
Convertible 146.50 150.90 + 0.20 5.10
-do- Accum 329.10 350.10 + 0.50 5.10
Emerging Markets 70.47 75.29 + 0.20 0.30
-do- Accum 71.03 75.88 + 0.20 0.30
European 185.50 175.40 + 2.50 0.50
-do- Accum 175.40 195.90 + 2.70 0.50
Extra Income 423.60 450.60† + 6.00 4.45
-do- Accum 683.10 726.70† + 9.50 4.45
Financial 197.70 210.30 + 1.10 0.46
-do- Accum 210.10 223.50 + 1.20 0.46
Gilt Trust 64.76 66.78 - 0.02 6.85
-do- Accum 100.70 103.80 - 0.10 6.85
Health Fund Inc 283.70 303.10 + 3.70

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	283.70	308.10	+ 3.70	
Income & Growth	246.10	261.80	+ 3.40	3.85
-do- Accum	307.60	423.00	+ 3.30	3.95
Intl Growth	435.20	464.80	+ 3.70	
-do- Accum	483.20	516.10	+ 4.10	
Japan & Gen	136.20	144.70†	- 1.20	
-do- Accum	137.60	146.20†	- 1.20	
Monpty Inc #	212.70	226.30	+ 1.30	4.38
-do- Accum #	215.40	229.10	+ 1.40	4.38
Managed Port Inc	126.00	132.80	+ 0.80	1.35
-do- Accum	136.80	144.10	+ 0.80	1.35
Opportunity Income #	59.67	64.10†	+ 0.41	5.28
-do- Accum #	70.00	75.04	+ 0.48	5.28
Recovery	340.60	364.30†	+ 0.90	
-do- Accum	402.00	429.90†	+ 0.90	
UK Growth	72.45	77.07	+ 0.47	2
-do- Accum	78.55	83.56	+ 0.50	2

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■ THEATRE 1

The American stage adaptation of *Birdy* is an offbeat but fascinating new offering for the West End



■ THEATRE 2

Volcano's latest touring production, *The Message*, makes for a strange and puzzling night out

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC 1

Simon Rattle and the CBSO resurrect the quintessential Sixties work, Berio's *Sinfonia*



■ MUSIC 2

... while fragments of unfinished Schubert are tantalisingly reconstructed at the Festival Hall

THEATRE: An intriguing transfer from book to film to fringe to the West End stage. Plus an Irish comedy; and a muddled message

Ruffled male feathers

Could there be something right with the West End? There have been no fewer than four openings this week on the Great Grey Way, among them a play I never thought any impresario would be brave enough to lift from its slot on the Hammersmith fringe last year.

Is there really an audience for a title-character who spends nine-tenths of the evening perched on or near a bedstead, arms folded like wings, head jerking this way and that, mouth silently cooing? If so, we shall all have reason to rejoice, for *Birdy* itself is the theatrical counterpart of one of those rare, speckled warblers that send ornithologists into the hills at dawn with high-tech binoculars in their knapsacks.

The American novelist William Wharton published his *Birdy* in 1978. Our own Alan Parker made a movie of it six years later. Now Naomi Wallace, an American dramatist who has staged most of her work here, has adapted the novel into a highly original play about the transformation of two human fledgelings into two wounded grown-ups — or, as she writes in the published text, "about the dehumanising process boys are forced to undergo in order to become acceptable 'men' in our society".

Her case is strengthened by the fact that much of the play occurs in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. Events in a particularly dehumanising male pursuit have shattered one man's mind and his best friend's jaw. Matthew Wait's Birdy, reduced as he is to a sort of avian catatonia, is shut up in a psychiatric hospital. But Rob Morrow's bandaged Al, brought in as a last-ditch cure by a desperate army doctor, is not a lot less trapped himself. Inside him, ominously festering, are fears, angers and bitter memories of the father who hit and humiliated him. Only at the end does either man achieve any kind of release.

It doesn't sound enough either to sustain an evening or to round out a couple of main characters. Wallace's answer to these worries, which is to give each man a boyhood double and skip to and fro in time, brings with it the danger of distracting us from the urgency of the situation and lowering dramatic tension. And maybe there were moments when I began to want to leave Adam Garcia's Young Al and Tam Williams's Young Birdy, busy bonding on top of a spinning, tilting white disc, and return to the painful present as it unfolded in the white-tiled room below. But Wallace's deft writing and Kevin Knight's skilful direction nipped impatience in the bud.

One boy, obsessed with everything winged and feathered, dreams of flight and at one point transforms himself into a cloth-and-aluminium flying machine. The other does endless press-ups and prepares for the day when he will be able to beat up his abusive father. Their dual oddities lead to some lively scenes, especially a mildly homoerotic one (Wallace neither ducks nor labours the sexual implications) in which Young Al prepares a quaking Birdy for a date at the school prom. But the serious point, that one boy is escaping his maleness and the other is in danger of turning it into macho display, is seriously made.

Yet it is the events beneath that really grip, thanks to Wait's bravura bird imitations and Morrow's ability to suggest a mix of sensitivity, love and rage behind the dopily detached manner he adopts for the benefit of Richard Durden's exasperated shrink.

Am I right to think that the evening's weirdest moment, when Al gently spits chewed food into Birdy's gaping beak, was more disturbing and touching back in W6? Even if so, this is fascinatingly offbeat stuff to find in the West End.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Birdy
Comedy



DONALD COOPER

Birds of a feather: Matthew Wait as the damaged Birdy is befriended by Rob Morrow's Sergeant Al

Night on the tiles

ALFRED HITCHCOCK would undoubtedly have judged a pallet of bathroom tiles as too short on uncanny fascination to use as a McGuffin, but for Owen McCafferty, it serves just fine to animate the plot of his latest play. Setting *Stone the Crow* in a half-finished bathroom peopled by tired, thwarted labourers strongly suggests, however, that uncanny fascination is hardly what McCafferty is searching for here.

As the members of a crew of Irish tilers finish off a large job, they become convinced that a few boxes of tiles, apparently overlooked and then forgotten by their owner, might, when converted into hard currency through the black market, provide the answer to all their problems.

Petesey (Anthony Brophy), the hard centre of the crew, and Socrates (David Ganley), more of a muddler than a philosopher, fantasise that a cash injection is just what is required to straighten out the kinks in their relationships with wives and children. Ding-Ding (Patrick Walden has more than a hint of Cyril Cusack at his most curmudgeonly) is on the brink of retirement without the resources to buy the window-cleaning round that might modestly fund his retirement.

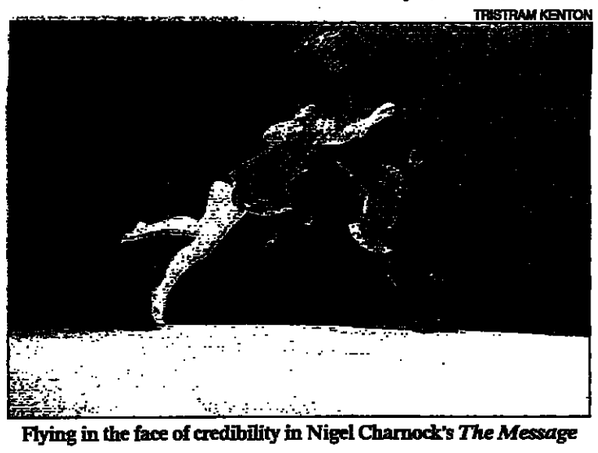
The only one with a dream glamorous enough to be worthy of the name is young Randolph (Fergal McElherron, as an attractive schoolboyish team gopher) who harbours a Peter Fonda-cum-Phileas Fogg fantasy of a superbike trip around the world. But if McCafferty's play is, in its broadest terms, a thwarted heist story, his characters are at their best when they are ignoring the "tealeafing" to come, forgetting their plans, and letting an easy comedy develop around them.

As they sit around Paul McCauley's excellent set (a split-level white-tiled bathroom hell, boxed-in with clear plastic daubed in runny, monochrome action painting rivulets) like unwanted mortar among the shiny tiles, their conversations — and some attractive ensemble playing — come into focus.

Lacking in pretension of any sort, *Stone the Crow* is careful not to pose or answer too many questions. Even when the story does obliquely raise realpolitik ethical issues, the intention never seems to be to tease out answers, but simply to evoke a way of life in which work is by definition draining, unsatisfying and ultimately pointless. What exactly McCafferty wants us to do with this distinctly uncheery information remains unclear, as engimatic, indeed, as the stack of tiles that is snared under a tight spotlight as the play draws to a close.

LUKE CLANCY

Stone the Crow
Druid, Galway



TRISTRAM KENTON

Flying in the face of credibility in Nigel Charnock's *The Message*

So, Lady Macbeth, tell us what you saw

The stage is bathed in sky-blue light, a Mediterranean sky-blue because we will be taken first to Argos, where Klytemnestra awaits the husband who butchered their daughter in exchange for a fair wind to Troy. The light will be red ere long, and Volcano Theatre's cast of four will either be wearing costumes the colour of blood or smeared with gobbets of the stuff. For 75 minutes they will proclaim or confide in us tales of slaughter, and seek to express the pain of it through vigorous movement.

From a programme note we learn that the original intention of the show was to indicate the role of the Messenger in drama, fiction and history. Had the company provided this, their efforts, guided by Nigel Charnock's direction and choreography, might have created a clearer experience. A later proposal was to look at the role of the eye-witness, which in theory could give us anything from Eve's account of apple-picking to laboratory notes on sheep cloning.

What Charnock and his team do is not so universally embracing as this but yet wide enough to explore too little in particular. We have the chilling account of the machine-gunner at the extermination camp, sitting with his legs dangling over the pit of corpses while enjoying a cigarette. We also have personal contributions by the two men (Paul Davies, Jan Knightly), wittily sharing accounts of the death of a father, the birth of a child. What do these events have in common that usefully brings them together? Sometimes men die in bed, sometimes in Auschwitz. So?

What of the choreography? There is running around, there is standing in a line. When the four of them, dressed in black at this point, are spaced equally across the stage, waving arms and pulling faces, the effect recalls the famous sleeve of *Help!*. In another sequence, Fern Smith repeatedly throws herself at the men and is caught. If the intention is to show her struggling in vain to overcome opposition, why does she always direct herself into their arms?

Another quirk is to include more murderous women than men among those who are given their say. Even the short excerpt from *Macbeth* presents her as killer, him as procrastinator. Since neither of them is an eyewitness or messenger, I don't see what they are doing there. The most moving corner of this puzzling evening came when June Broughton quietly spoke a poem by H. Munro (whom I take to be "Saki") telling of a soldier dead in the trenches. A single minute more intense than all the rolling and the leaping and the piercing cries of woe.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The Message
Lyric, Hammersmith

CONCERTS: Berio's *Sinfonia* is revived; and Schubert's Tenth Symphony gets a speculative performance

Essence of the Sixties

It would be perverse to exclude a work like Luciano Berio's *Sinfonia* from a survey of the Sixties just because it is so much of the Sixties. But, even as Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra move nearer and nearer Towards the Millennium, it is not too late to ask what else that work has, apart from its trendy 1968 birth certificate.

It has Lévi-Strauss and Samuel Beckett, both of them electronically drip-fed into the orchestral texture by way of the microphones of the eight vocal soloists. It has a movement devoted to the name of Martin Luther King, gradually assembled out of its constituent vowels and consonants. It also has a prolonged allusion to the scherzo of Mahler's Resurrection Symphony upon which is superimposed a collage of material from several other composers. And who, honestly, on hearing those quotes, would not escape into the music they represent rather than remain exposed to a corrosive wash of half-understood words and semi-detached phonemes?

It is true, on the other hand, that the *Sinfonia* is a powerful Sixties fetish and that Rattle, the CBSO, John Whiting and Electric Phoenix have long experience of collaborating in it. But, next to the massive sincerity of Messiaen's *Et Exspecto Resurrectionem Mortuorum* and the wit of Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto, it does seem to have something cynical and self-conscious about it.

Both the other items in the programme have their show-business aspects. Composed specifically for Mstislav Rostropovich, the concerto has that cellist's personality written all over it. Happily, Lynn Harrell has the imagination to make the most of the music-theatre element, impersonating the Rostropovich role in such a discreet way as to convert it, eventually, to his own use. The brass attacks on the soloist he seems to take personally, and when it takes off with the melodic line of the Cantilena he does it with immense lyrical conviction.

If the CBSO percussionist in *Et Exspecto* received almost as much applause as the soloist in the Cello Concerto it is because no one can resist the sight of the largest of all beaters repeatedly being taken to the largest of all orchestral tam-tams. It was a legitimate visual effect, a token of Messiaen's faith in the monumental and a compensation for what even Symphony Hall cannot offer in terms of the acoustic atmosphere of a Sainte Chapelle or a Notre Dame de Chartres.

GERALD LARNER

CBSO/Rattle
Birmingham

Picking up the pieces

The Schubert bicentenary is testing the ingenuity of many a planner. But there will be few more imaginative approaches than that essayed in the Philharmonia's concert on Wednesday under Christoph von Dohnányi.

The starting point was Schubert's Tenth Symphony, or what remains of that project in sketch form. The fragments suggest a three-movement symphony in D major, and among the attempts to reconstruct are Peter Gülke's performing version of the Andante.

Gülke conceives the movement as a return to the intimate scale of the "Unfinished" Symphony. Dohnányi, for his part, overlaid that conception with a reading that was not only poised and eloquent but also looked unmistakably forward to the more monumental Romantic utterances of the late 19th century.

Berio's *Rendering* also takes up the challenge of the fragments for Schubert's Tenth, but instead of attempting a reconstruction, this creative artist offers a "restoration" of the sketches. Berio fills the gaps with passages of dense polyphony, fashioned from those sketches but in contemporary idiom. Introduced by a tinkling celesta effecting a "dissolve", their suspension of metre and tonality throws an unsettling shadow across the bridge between the centuries.

After this, the "Unfinished" Symphony itself provided an unusually satisfying epilogue. From the hushed, mysterious rendering of the opening theme on lower strings, it was evident that Dohnányi intended to cast this work, too, in a Romantic light. As is customary, Dohnányi takes the Andante con moto with considerably more gravity, more of a valedictory quality, than one suspects he would if it belonged to a completed work. Yet the vision was genuine, the conviction persuasive.

Schubert was approached from a different angle with a group of Lieder arranged by various composers for baritone and orchestra. If Webern's transcription of *Ihr Bild* was austere, those by Brahms of *Memnon* and *An Schwager Kronos* were typically warm, while Gilman's *Du bist die Ruh* evoked tranquillity with sustained strings and harp. Taking over from Olaf Bär at short notice, Hakan Hagegard failed to convince that the intimacy of the songs with piano could be captured in another medium.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Philharmonia/ Dohnányi
Festival Hall



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Order of the boot

RADIO

THE removal of Danny Baker's soccer phone-in, **The Baker Line**, from Radio 5 Live on Wednesday nights marks a watershed. Critics of the BBC who worry about falling standards now have their answer, for here is the BBC at last calling: enough is enough.

Baker was dumped because he had, as the BBC put it, crossed the line "between being lively, humorous and controversial and being insulting to the audience". Yes, but there is more to it than that. The audience for football phone-ins is not easily insulted, often tending towards excessive abuse of teams and, especially, referees. Baker went because he poured petrol, not water, on to the flames. The last straw was when Baker urged listeners to conduct a campaign of abuse against the referee who awarded a controversial penalty in the Chelsea-Leicester Cup replay. This is pure incitement, pure pandering to yobbery, and as such it has no place on a network which expects to be taken seriously.

Baker has also expressed the view that "most referees need a good slapping". And, having been told to "shut up" by a caller, Baker shouted at his producer on-air about the quality of the callers and said that he wanted his old producer back. All of this matters because phone-in programmes have been espoused by the BBC with relish, but they can be done with a measure of decorum. The quality and attitude of the presenter is invariably taken up by the callers. Nick Ross is the obvious example, but Radio 5 has sporting examples too: David Mellor's **6.06** on Saturday evenings and Dominick Diamond's **Sportscall** on Sundays. To judge by *Sportscall*, the argument formerly known as *The Baker Line* will be conducted in a more seemly way from now on. Tony Hall, head of BBC News, and Roger Mosey, Controller of Radio 5, have performed a real service by drawing a line in the sand, by making it clear that phone-ins about sport do not have to sound like a post-match argument in a pub car park.

So now Baker and his friend Chris Evans have departed from BBC programmes in short order, each having discovered that the BBC is bigger than any of its personalities. That is good news for those who were beginning to wonder.

PETER BARNARD

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Readers of *The Times* can get the hottest cinema ticket of the year FREE and enjoy a private screening of *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

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CHANGING TIMES



■ POP 1

Manufactured for the mass market: what goes on behind the scenes to get a band like Boyzone to the top



■ POP 2

Playing on a radio near you: why the Mutton Birds are New Zealand's hottest new property

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 3

The songs are slow and the mood is sombre on Nick Cave's latest album, *The Boatman's Call...*

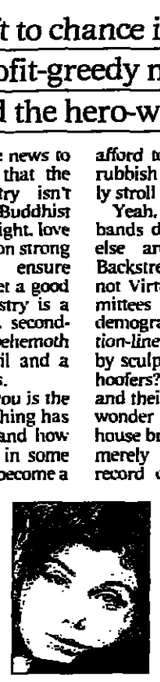


■ POP 4

... while the Finnish composer and producer Jimi Tenor plays it cool on his third effort, *Intervision*

Ever feel you've been had?

Nothing is left to chance in some record companies' profit-greedy manipulation of the charts – and the hero-worshipping kids



CAITLIN MORAN

Well, it won't be news to you by now that the music industry isn't run like a Buddhist kibbutz: overflowing with light, love and fairness, and founded on strong socialist principles that ensure bands and punters alike get a good deal. No, the music industry is a two-timing, back-stabbing, second-guessing, drug-raddled behemoth with two faces, one nostril and a brain the size of a chicken's.

But what may surprise you is the extent to which the whole thing has been reduced to a game, and how the charts, the press and, in some cases, the music itself have become a meaningless pretence — in short, how bands and their careers are being reduced to virtual reality.

As you may have noticed, there was a bit of a flap last week when the BBC declared that the charts were basically unreliable. Again, this wasn't really news: the charts are like sailboats — there's always been a certain amount of record company rigging. But, in the past year or so, the companies have become so good at getting the chart position they want that the first week of a single's life is entirely manipulated. Multiple formats, first-week sale prices of 99p, dishonestly gained knowledge of where chart return shops are situated and, if all else fails, a squad of people in a van buying up copies of the single mean that many executives have been claiming their "high chart entry" bonuses on an almost weekly basis.

The press, too, is not a bastion of truth and impartiality — no shock when considering the tabloids, but what about the dedicated music publications where Group Dogdrill and Arab Strap are big (well, biggish) news? There are still journalists who accept payment for bestowing the accolade of "single of the week". Expensive lunches, alcohol, trips abroad and cocaine are all employed in getting bands more press. And, with the recent mini-boom that Britpop brought about, some record companies' largesse has even started to extend towards people working in art and layout — just to make sure everyone is "onboard" with a new band, y'know?

Of course, it's all only rock'n'roll, and where would it be without drugs, bribes and a bit of under-the-table, how's-your-father, keep-your-mouth-shut? But the music industry is the UK's third biggest business, so it means millions of pounds' worth of commerce is being manipulated. And, even worse for people who love music, it means that an awful number of good bands on little, independent labels simply can't afford to get into the charts, while rubbish bands on big labels regularly stroll into the Top Ten.

Yeah, and about all those formula bands doing well at present: what else are Boyzone, Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys and Peter Andre if not Virtual Pop, designed by committees of businessmen heady on demographics: served by production-line songwriters, and presented by sculpted, styled, scripted two-bit hoofers? These stars are *designed*, and their success is not down to the wonder of the music, or the lighthouse brilliance of their personality; merely how much money their record company has to throw at them, and how canny their manager is.

Of course, the pop world has always had manufactured bands: but the "credible" alternative world is now getting into the act too. Alanis Morissette, one of last year's biggest-selling artists, was given a complete image overhaul and an album's worth of songs by her manager, a rather uncredible forty-something fella. So much for the radical feminist posturing.

Kula Shaker, another "hip, alternative" band, have been the subject of reams of print in the industry magazine *Music Week*, with label bosses and managers congratulating themselves on their marketing techniques and press strategy, the building of the band's underground credibility and so forth. The pressure to change yourself, to become more marketable, saleable, perfect and virtual extends down to the tiniest band: Steve Jones of Babybird was "informed", before *You're Gorgeous* became a hit and he was still a little fella who scraped into the Top 60, that a couple of weeks at a health farm might not go amiss, as he was a stone over the ideal weight to get into the Top Ten.

Bands are offered "training" for interviews, teaching them the kind of thing they might want to have an opinion on if they want lots of press coverage. Virtual personalities are so much safer than the real, loose-cannon thing.

So, when everything your pop star wears, says, sings or does is decided by management; when most of what the press reports about them is paid for; when the awards they win are fiddled to the point of ridiculousness and the chart position they reach is false and wrong and cheated for, what is real? And what is virtual? What, and where, is British music among all these holograms, flow-charts, strike-teams and stylists? And what was so wrong with bands getting to No 1 simply because people liked them, and their music?



Everyone loves the Spice Girls. If they didn't, it would have been because someone in marketing goofed

In the deepest, darkest Cave

POP ALBUMS

NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS
The Boatman's Call
(Mute Stumm 142 £13.49)

TO HAVE gone from the violent fiction of his last album, *Murder Ballads*, to the intimate confessions of *The Boatman's Call* might have seemed like a sizeable leap of the creative imagination for a less literate talent than Nick Cave. But there is a universal quality to Cave's writing which enables him, like a good playwright or novelist, to tease out core emotional truths from his dark musical voyages, irrespective of where the subject-matter takes him.

The songs on *The Boatman's Call* are uniformly slow and, compounded by Cave's sombre vocal signature, their mood is more often desolate than not. "There will always be suffering/It flows through life like water," he croons in *Lime-Tree Arbour*. Many are about the break-up of his marriage to Vivian Carneiro, and songs such as *Where Do We Go Now But Nowhere?* and *Far from Me* are suffused with pained regret and bitterness: "It's good to hear you're doing so well/But really can't you find somebody else that you can ring and tell?"

Cave also supplies candid details of his liaison with Polly Jean Harvey, the obvious subject of *Black Hair* and *West Country Girl*: "With a crooked smile and a heart-shaped face/Comes from the West Country where the birds sing bass."

As an album, *The Boatman's Call* provides the most eloquent testimony yet of Cave's stark powers of observation and wry poetic skill. But you would not be encouraged to try living with him as a result of hearing it.

JIMI TENOR
Intervision
(Warp 48, £14.49)

US 3
Broadway & 52nd
(Blue Note/Capitol 8 30027 £13.49)

IT MAY be no more than a coincidence that the two coolest albums released this week are aimed squarely at the young dance/club market, yet are both steeped in the history and culture of jazz.

Classically trained on saxophone, piano and flute, the Finnish composer and producer Jimi Tenor marries the sophisticated harmonies of jazz fusion to the old-fashioned funk grooves of 1970s soul, and then sprinkles the mixture with a fine coating of 1990s loungecore lunacy on his third album, *Intervision*.

Given a Sooty-style organ treatment, the Duke Ellington standard *Caravan* is underpinned by a riotous jungle-goes-Latin percussion track. There are echoes of *Hot Rats*-era Frank Zappa on *Tesla*, while *Downtown* updates Curtis Mayfield's *Superfly*-period soundtrack style. The ingenuity of the arrangements and sheer excellence of the performances are rewarding enough, but the marvel of it is that here is a modern dance album rich in old-fashioned melodic detail.

Us 3, the outfit led by British DJ and producer Geoff Wilkinson, continue their officially sanctioned raiding of the Blue Note jazz label archives on *Broadway & 52nd*. The album combines samples of old jazz numbers, including Horace Silver's *Sayonara Blues* and Wayne Shorter's *Indian Song*, with new recordings, all topped off by the quickfire vocalese of East Coast rappers KCB and Shabaam Sahdeeq. The result is smart and chic.

VAN MORRISON
The Healing Game
(Exile/Polydor 537 101 £13.99)

"HERE I am again ... Where I've always been," Van Morrison sings on the title track of his 28th album. While other long-running acts take great pains to ensure that, every so often, their work involves some element of "re-invention", there is a comforting inevitability about a new Morrison album.

We know there will be songs about the great spiritual matters of life, love, faith and remembrance of better days. These will be strung together in gruff, throwaway phrases that are then irritatingly echoed in a Celtic-gospel style by Georgie Fame or one of the other backing singers (in this case Katie Kissoon and Brian Kennedy). There will be exquisite horn arrangements, old-fashioned organ and piano parts (Fame again) and perhaps a bit of crusty harmonica from the Man himself, but never anything so vulgar as a synthesizer or guitar solo.

Sure enough, it all goes exactly according to plan once again on *The Healing Game*, and it all sounds every bit as marvellous as before, albeit without quite the same degree of sunny optimism that informed his Mercury Music Prize-nominated album, *Days Like These*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(–)	Pop	U2 (Island)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(10)	Everything Must Go	Manic Street Preachers (Epic)
4	(5)	Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card)
5	(1)	Attack of the Grey Lantern	Mansun (Parlophone)
6	(27)	Dreamland	Robert Miles (Deconstruction)
7	(12)	Beautiful Freak	Eels (Dreamworks)
8	(11)	K	Kula Shaker (Columbia)
9	(17)	Travelling Without Moving	Jamiroquai (Sony S²)
10	(13)	Older	George Michael (Virgin)

Copyright CIN

● Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Paul Sexton discovers why New Zealand became a crowded house for the witty and pop-wise Mutton Birds

Kiwi seagulls deny they have Finns

Does the next person to call the Mutton Birds "the new Crowded House" qualify for a broken nose? Perhaps not, but it won't be long before New Zealand's hottest property of 1997 can stop smiling politely at the comparison.

The Mutton Birds are now playing on a radio near you with *Come Around*, a song that manages the juggling act of deadly infectiousness and lyrical percipience. A song written by an antipodean group with a sense of humour and an absence of artifice. OK, it does sound familiar.

"When people don't know you at all, some kind of label is useful," says chief Mutton Bird, Don McGlashan, "and I suppose Crowded House is the only band from New Zealand that most people would know about. It's good to be compared with a really good band, and they've inspired a whole generation of Kiwi musicians.

"But, if you are just talking about music, once people know us, they'll see that we're noisier than Crowded House and we don't play our instruments as well."

Come Around is an aperitif for *Envy of Angels*, another gold-selling album in the Birds' home nest (they are named after a type of seagull) that will be their official long-playing debut in this country. The album was recorded in Wales with producer Hugh Jones, a Brit nominee this year for his work with Dodgy and the Bluetones. At the further risk of incurring that bunch of fives, the album shares with Neil Finn and friends an aura of unpretentious ingenuity, freshly-baked-this-morning melodies and dark, pensive lyrics.

Such an alluring mixture is in part the result of McGlashan's remarkable multimedia background. The Mutton Birds is his second successful band in a CV that also includes film scoring — notably for Jane Campion's *An Angel at My Table* — a classical music education, acting and musical theatre.

"My dad worked in coal mines in New Zealand," he says. "He was kind of a thwarted musician, so he made sure there were heaps of beaten-up secondhand instruments arriving in the household all the time that I could have a go at from the age of about five. By the time I was a teenager, I could hold a tune on a lot of things."

McGlashan played in a brass band, had a job in an orchestra for two years and went on to lead the Top Ten local band Blam, Blam, Blam from the drums. These days he also plays a mean euphonium, both on record and as a splendidly incongruous addition to the Mutton Birds' live performance.

McGlashan toured the arts festival circuit in the late 1980s with the ensemble musical play *The Front Lawn*, playing seasons at Edinburgh and London's Donmar Warehouse. Returning after his collaboration with Campion to the environs of rock'n'roll, he founded the Mutton Birds to fast acclaim at home, but a country with a population less than half that of London brought artistic limitations. "The gravy train doesn't pick up passengers in New Zealand," he says. "It does in Australia, then it sort of misses out New Zealand and goes somewhere else.

"The music scene there is a really nurturing one for writers and bands, because it's not really connected to the industry, it's just an exotic blip at the edge of the radar screen. We make more music than the people can consume — it's a music mountain, like those European wine lakes — but it's not a very good environment for making a connection with an audience."



Noisier than Crowded House and they don't play their instruments as well: the needlessly self-deprecating Mutton Birds

Hence the Mutton Birds' awesome collection of Air Miles and, these past few months of recording and gigging, adopted Brit status. It has also meant the departure of guitarist David Long — "He was too homesick; he didn't like the phone ringing and hearing he was going to Holland the following day." McGlashan also admits that the nomadic life brings moments of wilderness.

"There's a 'letters to home' quality about this album, a kind of claustrophobia," he says. "*Trouble with You* especially is a late-night, staring-at-the-wallpaper kind of song. But we are more reconciled now to the idea of being stateless."

● *The single, Come Around, is released this week by Virgin. The album, Envy of Angels, follows in May. The Mutton Birds play London's Shepherd's Bush Empire on March 15*

United notions

JAZZ ALBUMS

TRILOK GURTU
The Glimpse
(CMP CD 85)

THE Bombay-born percussionist Trilok Gurtu has been ploughing his highly individual world music/jazz/Indian percussion furrow since the mid-1970s, so it is singularly appropriate that this album should be dedicated to the most important pioneer of such fusions, Gurtu's erstwhile leader, the late trumpeter Don Cherry.

Gurtu is adept not only at assembling multi-national casts for his projects, but also at blending their various contributions into coherent musical statements. Here, the voice of Geetha Bennett, the cello and bass of Sweden's Lars Danielsson, the trumpet of Italy's Paolo Fresu and the *kaval* (wooden pipe) of Bulgaria's Teodosii Spassov are among the providers of an extraordinary range of sounds and textures.

The whole is firmly held together by the virtuosic percussion and the compositions of Gurtu himself, but the album's highlight is a haunting version of *Law Years*, by Cherry's most famous collaborator, Ornette Coleman.

LESTER YOUNG
The "Kansas City" Sessions
(Commodore CMD 14022)

ALTHOUGH often thought of as a Dixieland label — other reissues in this series include CDs by Wild Bill Davison and Pee Wee Russell — Commodore also documented a great deal of mainstream jazz between 1938 and the mid-1950s.

These sessions — involving Lester Young on clarinet and tenor sax, and featuring trombonist/guitarist Eddie Durham, trumpeters Buck Clayton and Bill Coleman, and trombonist Dicky Wells as well as the Count Basie rhythm section of guitarist Freddie Green, bassist Walter Page and drummer Jo Jones — are classics of the genre.

They are wonderfully informal and relaxed, but effortlessly showcase the skills of the participants, whether easing their way through the blues or exploring the possibilities of standards such as *Them There Eyes* or *I Got Rhythm*.

CHRIS PARKER







■ POP 5

They were underground heroes and darlings of the critics. Now Morphine are hitting the big time



■ POP 6

Looking for attention: Gene show off their strident new image in a clever Norwich gig

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ TOMORROW

The European premiere of Ariel Dorfman's *Widows*: read Benedict Nightingale's view



■ TOMORROW

Do the French actually deserve their reputation for producing the world's most erotic cinema?

Careful with that axe

LIKE Aztec Camera and Prefab Sprout before them, Gene are part of that fine tradition of British groups whose mastery of the well-crafted song has earned them considerable praise but established no clear identity. In Gene's case, their image problem was compounded by a debut album (*Olympian*) that rang with echoes of the Smiths.

Perhaps this is why, two years later, their new record, *Drawn to the Deep End*, adopts a more strident, attention-grabbing style, and the live set is almost exclusively derived from the new era. The only exceptions are two of the band's earliest songs: *Be My Light, Be My Guide* and *For the Dead*.

LIVE GIG

Gene
UEA, Norwich

Their show begins with *New Amusements*, with its dramatic switches of tempo and mood, of loud riffs and elegant trills. Only with *Where are they now?* does the pace slacken. Until then, Steve Mason's guitar has brutally kicked the tunes into life; now, for a brief interlude, he cajoles them. Later he will contribute a silky country rock solo to *Why I Was Born*.

It is also in these more restrained moments that singer Martin Rossiter's voice works best. Dressed in a suit and open-necked shirt, he resembles a rather staid member of the professional classes. He is flanked by a rhythm section — Kevin Miles (bass) and Matt James (drums) — of similarly stolid aspect. His singing, though, is all passionate torment. He is also master of the dramatic pause. Midway through the lovely *Speak To Me Someone*, the song cuts dead. Rossiter waits and waits and waits, restarting with a sense of drama that Shirley Bassey might envy.

All this anguish and drama is framed, however, by a touch of irony. The stage recreates a 1950s provincial theatre: red velvet curtains edged with gold tassles form a proscenium arch. Maybe, it suggests, all the passion is only play-acting. The effect is to add a mildly discomfiting, alienating edge to a clever show.

JOHN STREET

Suspect by name and eccentric by instrumentation, Morphine have made it against all odds. **David Sinclair** reports

Mr Sandman, send me a dream



MARTIN BEDDALL

"Our music has been used in television shows and movies and during the links in the MTV Awards. To me that means it's an accessible sound," says Morphine's Mark Sandman

If there is one thing we have learnt about American pop in the 1990s it is that we should never write off the outsiders. From the hardcore punk of Nirvana to the geeky, oddball pop of Beck and Eels, "alternative" performers are no longer content to languish in the margins of rock. Instead, they have successfully re-educated the ears of mainstream audiences to the peculiar requirements of their music, with spectacular results.

Even so, what hope of chart success is there for a trio from Boston, Massachusetts, called Morphine, with a line-up featuring only a baritone saxophonist, a drummer and a singer who plays a two-stringed slide bass guitar?

Full of sinuous grace and neat, punchy tunes, their fourth album, *Like Swimming*, is their most commercially viable work yet. But surely such music, with its dark, woozy textures, implied jazz leanings and idiosyncratic disdain for treble frequencies, is never going to be more than an acquired taste for the cognoscenti?

Not according to Mark Sandman, the group's singer and songwriter. "Right from the start we've had noticeably diverse audiences," he says. "People with skateboards and people with babysitters at the same shows. Our music has been used in television shows and movies and as background music for sports shows and during the links in the MTV Awards, and to me that means it's an accessible sound."

And, although in Britain and Europe Morphine remain attached to the small, independent record label Rykodisc, in America they have just signed a deal with Dreamworks, the new company with major promotional muscle that is home to George Michael and the Eels. Long admired as underground heroes and darlings of the critics, Morphine are suddenly starting to look like big league contenders.

Yet it all started so casually. Sandman, horn player Dana Colley and original drummer Jerome Deupree (later replaced by Billy Conway) had all played in various other bands before they drifted together to form Morphine. With their minimalist instincts and loose, adventurous performing style, they had no trouble fitting into Boston's relaxed and fluid musical environment with its network of impromptu loft parties and word-of-mouth gigs, so unlike the formal, and highly pressurised, club scenes in New York and Los Angeles.

"We kept it pretty low-key, practically a secret," Sandman says in his deep, sleepy drawl. "There was no hype, and really no ambition either. Our focus was to develop this core sound that we had.

"On the first album [*Good*, released in 1992] I played a one-string bass, which meant everything was in the same key. At that time we were big into the key of D. We've opened it out a bit since then. This new album we're checking out the key of A."

The band's unique sound rests on the twin pillars of Sandman's slinky bass lines and Colley's equally deep, grumpy horn parts. An admirer of jazz saxophonist John Coltrane, Colley has been influenced on a more practical level by the guitar playing of Jimi Hendrix and Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top, while Sandman also throws Muddy Waters and Prince into his personal mix of favourites.

Originally a guitarist himself, Sandman's fascination with customised instruments goes back to the days when he played in an unknown group called Supergroup alongside Chris Ballew, another two-stringed bass player, who has since found fame and fortune with the Presidents of the United States of America.

"When we were in Supergroup we used to spontaneously compose pop songs based on titles suggested by the audience, and do all kinds of crazy improvisational stuff," Sandman says. "Chris is a master at making up lyrics, an absolute genius. We used to tape the shows and we got a lot of ideas that eventually became real songs for both Morphine and the Presidents. Their song *Kitty* is named after the cat that lives in my house. Morphine's song *Sheila* is about its owner."

Sandman's noir-ish lyrics are the perfect foil for the band's languid sound. "I move slowly underwater, I know my way around," he sings on *Wishing Well*, while his bass laps fitfully around the ankles of the beat. "Early to bed, early to rise/Makes a man and woman miss out on the night life," he warns over the tip-toe funk riff of *Early to Bed*.

"Night life is what happens after dark," Sandman says. "It's not necessarily pouring lots of liquor into your stomach. We're not a hard-partying band. But I would say we are definitely nocturnal."

The dark corners are what make the band's music so intriguing. "The day they find a cure for pain is the day I throw my drugs away," Sandman sang on the title track of their 1993 album, *Cure for Pain*. But isn't Morphine a pretty sinister choice of name for a pop group?

"You could look at it that way. It's a drug that is used routinely in hospitals for relieving pain. There's nothing sinister about that," Sandman says, rather disingenuously. "It's just a name that stuck."

● *Morphine's album, Like Swimming, is released by Rykodisc on Monday*



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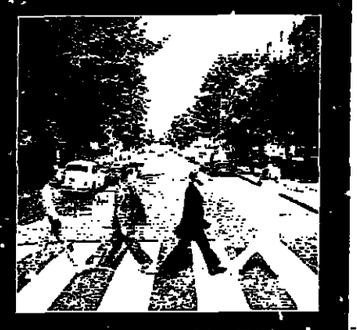
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CHOICE 1

Andy Warhol features in the new exhibition *Painterly Pop*

VENUE: Today at the Tate Gallery



CHOICE 2

A Woody Allen premiere for the Bradford Film Festival

VENUE: From today at Pictureville

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 1

Curtain up on a fascinating new work about the tangled lives of the Spanish conquistadors



OPERA 2

At Covent Garden the revived *Tosca* benefits from a burst of vintage Russian histrionics

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

NYMAN AND STRAVINSKY In this evening's concert at 7.30pm, Andrew Davis conducts the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** in Stravinsky's *Persephone* and *Oedipus Rex*. With Louise Winter, soprano, John Mark Ainsley and Jon Garrison, tenors, Alan Opie, baritone, Stephen Richardson, bass, the BBC Symphony Chorus and New London Children's Choir. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm the **Philharmonia Orchestra** performs the world premiere of Michael Nyman's Double Concerto for saxophone and cello, together with Nyman's *MGV. Sensemaya* by Revueltas, and Schulhoff's Third Symphony. With the Michael Nyman Band, John Harle, saxophone, and Julian Lloyd Webber, cello. The conductor is James Judd. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ROSTROPOVICH, SCHUBERT ET AL: Schubert — A Contemporary Celebration, dawned by the violinist Gidon Kremer, contrasts the composer's exquisite chamber music with contemporary works. In the second of six concerts (tonight, 7.30pm), Harbison's Piano Quartet, *19th November 1828* — based on a theme by Schubert — and Schnittke's String Trio are given with Schubert's *Trout Quintet*. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm, Mstislav Rostropovich celebrates his 70th birthday by conducting the London Symphony Orchestra in the first of a five-concert series, titled **Rostropovich.70**. Meanwhile *Shine* and *Mr Reliable* are just some of the films being shown at the third **Australian Film Festival** (today-March 13) **Barbican** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891).

TATE The gallery's programme of **New Displays** includes two new exhibitions. *Painterly Pop* includes Warhol's *Marilyn Diptych*, and *Recollections* explores the themes of memory and remembrance. **Tate Gallery**, Millbank (0171-887 8000). Both exhibitions open today. Daily, 10am-5.50pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRADFORD The third **Bradford Film Festival** encompasses the best of world, independent and classic widescreen cinema. This year's event opens with the world premiere of *Shit Upper Lips*, directed by Gary Smyor. Other premieres include Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You*, and *Gridlock'd* with Tim Roth. In addition, the festival explores the diverse output of Hong Kong cinema, and looks at the career of Stanley Kramer. **National Museum of Photography, Film and Television**, Pictureville (01274 773393). Today-March 22.

MANCHESTER Hans Vonk conducts the **Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra** in Brahms's Violin Concerto in D and Symphony No 4. **Bridgewater Hall**, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Sunday, 7.30pm.

STRATFORD Katie Mitchell's production of **The Passion**, based on our medieval mystery plays, joins *The Creation* in repertoire, with complete performances on Thurs and Sat. **The Other Place**, Southern Lane (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm (after *The Creation*, 1.30pm).

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Modern Scandinavian Prints (0171-636 1555). **Camden Arts Centre** Parssen(nes) (0171-435 2643). **Christopher Hull** Zoe Benbow Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500). **Dover Street** Kate Malone (0171-409 1540). **Gasworks** John Dougill Paintings and Prints (0171-735 3445). **National** Young Gainsborough (0171-747 2885). **Redfern** William Gear A Golden Jubilee Exhibition (0171-734 1732). **Westminster** The Society of Women Artists' 136th Annual Open Exhibition (0171-222 2723).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **ART** Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Warchus directs. Last week for present cast. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm. Sat and Sun, 5pm.

□ **ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE** Further structural changes at this theatre for Tim Albery's ambitious staging of a new Martin Crimp play: a mosaic of scenes building into a post-modernist portrait of a modern woman. **Royal Court Circle and Stage, Ambassadors**, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens March 12, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. mats Sat (from March 15), 4pm.

□ **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** Set on a remote Irish isle, with excellent playing (Ruaidhri Conroy as the young cripple). Martin McDonagh's second play has its faults but is lively and sharply comic. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mats Sat and Wed, 2.30pm. In rep ◪

□ **THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA** James Laurenson and Conn Redgrave play Arnold and Washington, heading a fine cast in Richard Nelson's play concerned with treachery but only faintly suggesting motives. **Pit**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. In rep.

□ **IVANOV** Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 5.

□ **NINE** Yesterday's pop musical based on Fellini's 8½. Style elevated above substance. Pretty frocks. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Final performances tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. mat Sat, 3pm.

□ **ST NICHOLAS** Brian Cox plays a smug theatre critic who falls for a young actress which probably doesn't prove a good move. One-man play written and directed by Conor McPherson. **Bush**, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **WASTE** Peter Hall's bold new seven-nights-a-week repertory starts with Galsworthy's 1907 drama. Originally banned by the Lord Chamberlain for dwelling on what happens when a politician spends a night with a married woman. Felicity Kendal and Michael Pennington head a splendid cast. **Old Vic**, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 14, 7.30pm. *Cloud Nine* joins the repertoire on March 10.

□ **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT** Hit Irish comedy by Marie Jones, directed by Pam Brighton, with Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock as two women devoted to the singer Daniel O'Donnell, and Phelim Drew as the young waiter who answers their fantasies. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (0171-369 1733). □ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737). □ **An Inspector Calls** Garrick (0171-494 5085). □ **Jesus Christ Superstar** Lyceum (0171-856 1807). ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909). ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400). □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443). ◪ **Oliver!**, Palladium (0171-494 5020). ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**, Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400). ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BLOOD AND WINE** (15) Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler from director Bob Rafelson. **Odeon Haymarket** (0181-315 4212). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031). **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343).

IRMA VEP Hong Kong star gets in deep water shooting a French film. Playful oddity from director Olivier Assayas, with Maggie Cheung. **Everyman** (0171-435 1525). **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647).

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15) A sports PR agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Oscar-nominated Tom Cruise. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Empire** (0990 888990). **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214). **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216). **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4230). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990). **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031).

NORMAL LIFE (18) Ashley Judd and Luke Perry spin out of control. Stark crime drama from director John McNaughton. **ABC Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561). **NFT** (0171-928 3232).

SWANN (15) Local Canadian poet fuels a mystery. Glum drama with Brenda Fricker, Miranda Richardson. Director, Anna Benson Gyles.

CURRENT

BOUND (18) Flashy thriller about two *sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money*, with Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Directed by the Wachowski brothers. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214). **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096). **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527).

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12) Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Paul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hytner. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891). **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214). **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215). **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216). **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4230). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990). **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096).

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG) Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team. With Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Robert Young. **Empire** (0990-888 990). **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990). **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031).

◆ **MARS ATTACKS!** (12) Tim Burton's silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie, with Jack Nicholson and Glenn Close. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705). **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216). **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4230). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990). **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031). **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343).

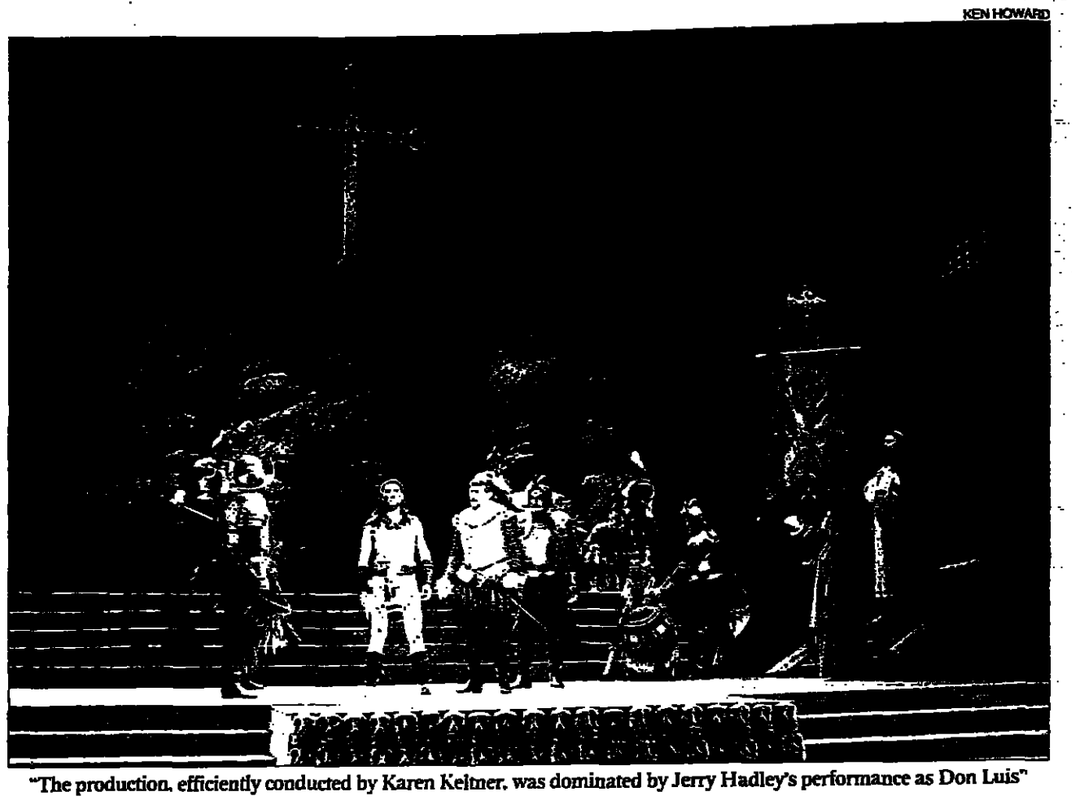
◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12) Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as *the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe*. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148). **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043). **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691). **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233). **Rio** (0171-254 6677). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121). **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772). **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366). **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990). **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636). **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527). **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343). **Watermans** (0181-568 1176).

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279).

OPERA: A Myron Fink premiere in America; a change of *Tosca* at Covent Garden

Defenders of their faith

KEN HOWARD



"The production, efficiently conducted by Karen Keltner, was dominated by Jerry Hadley's performance as Don Luis"

The subject-matter of Myron Fink's new opera, closely based on fact and premiered in San Diego on Saturday, is *perfectly riveting. When Ferdinand and Isabella* expelled the Jews from Spain, those who stayed and nominally converted to Christianity — the *conversos* — remained prey to the Inquisition. Many tried their luck in the New World: it is estimated that a quarter of

The Conquistador
Civic Theatre, San Diego

Cortez's forces in the invasion of Mexico were Jewish. Once there, many *conversos* practised their religion in secret, as they had in Spain, but the Inquisition followed and rooted them out; some escaped northwards to what is now New Mexico, where up to our own time Christian and Jewish worship remain intermingled.

Fink's protagonist is Don Luis de Carvajal (a legitimate conflation of two members of an historical family), ruthless military commander and ambitious provincial governor. His family still celebrate the sabbath, and try to persuade him to join them in following the faith of their ancestors, but he is — as the phrase goes nowadays — "in denial". In the eyes of the authorities he is also too soft on the conquered Indians, joining with the Franciscan monk Bernardino de Sahagun (another historical figure) in educating rather than merely enslaving them. Don Luis's family is tortured by the Inquisition and burnt alive; he, having been less than stalwart in their defence, falls from grace and dies in prison.

So here is a protagonist of potentially Oedipal tragic stature, on a voyage of self-discovery culminating in a prison scene where, confused as to which God he should pray to, Hebrew words are finally forced from his lips — an epic moment. The only doubt about Donald Moreland's detailed libretto apart from its daringly widescreen spread — there are 14 principal roles and a cast of more than 100 — is the invention of operatic love interest: Don Luis seeks to marry the Viceroy's niece, which triggers the initial investigation of his family. This gives opportunities for conventional soprano-tenor duets, but perhaps dilutes the meatier issues already set before us.

As for Fink (born 1932), it is tempting to draw comparisons with Pfitzner. He has spent his life as professor of composition in leading US institutions. His idiom is conservative, and as he himself wryly remarks, those whose appreciation stops dead with Puccini will find him dangerously cacophonous, while modernists will think him hopelessly reactionary; in our terms his musical language lies somewhere between Vaughan Williams and Britten. His score is expertly crafted, ingeniously orchestrated (words easily audible), "correct" in every way; but as with *Palestrina*, those indefinable elements of inspiration and *melos* are only intermittently evident. He illustrates rather than leads — let alone overtakes — the libretto.

San Diego Opera's production, efficiently conducted by Karen Keltner, was dominated by one towering performance, that of Jerry Hadley as Don Luis, and no praise could be too high for a tenor of his international stature committing himself so wholeheartedly to new work. He was in ringing voice, and brought a glowing intensity to his impersonation. There were vivid performances from Kenneth Cox as Father Bernardino, the framing narrator, and Louis Otey and John Duykers as the villainous Viceroy and Inquisitor. Adria Firestone was especially telling as Luis's sister, and Elizabeth Hynes went through the motions as the love interest.

Had the director Sharon Ott had more than just two-and-a-half weeks to rehearse so complex a show, she might have got beyond mere traffic direction — the direct address to the audience built into the libretto could certainly be developed. And development is what *Conquistador* deserves: some discreet trimming (we were in the theatre for nearly four hours), some sharpening, some workshopping: the pertinent subject-matter alone should guarantee the opera a future.

RODNEY MILNES

Russian spice in a favourite dish

Tosca
Covent Garden

When all around is shifting sands, the Royal Opera's *Tosca* can be relied on to give at least an illusion of stability and continuity. Who cares about a leaking roof when Eric Garrett's Sacristan will be there, it seems, until Judgment Day with his mop? The choirboy ring o' roses, the drifting incense, the knife always in the right place in Act II, the creased dawn sky behind the battlements: all provide a degree of reassurance for the operatically scandal-worn.

But now, into this cosy landscape of nicely maturing melodrama enters Maria Guleghina. The Russian soprano, who made her Royal Opera debut as Fedora 15 months ago, now strides into a role that is the very incarnation of her histrionic skills.

She is an imperious, volatile, properly theatrical Tosca from her first moment on stage until her last. And as the body sweeps through space, the voice is both powerful and controlled enough to find resinous melody in the loudest, most orchestrally challenged passages; and the imagination is keen enough to tune the senses to every passing orchestral soloist, every verbal scent of thyme or rose.

Guleghina poses a formidable challenge to any Cavaradossi; and Keith Olsen, returning to the role, sounds only serviceable by her side, and at *times disconcertingly threadbare at the* top of his register. But Guleghina is certainly equally matched with her compatriot Sergei Leiferkus, now quite an old hand as Covent Garden's Scarpia. Like the diva herself, his sheer physical presence never fails to compel attention: the body language is one of urbane irony, and the natural sibilance of the voice snakes its way through vocal lines toughened by steel.

The essential reinforcement of this revival comes, of course, from the pit. Edward Downes conducts a spacious yet firmly moulded account of the score, *with some marvellous dense, dark string textures, and not one familiar moment taken for granted.*

HILARY FINCH

ART GALLERIES

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OPERA & BALLET

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THEATRES

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LYRIC 0171 494 5045 Previews from 3 Apr Opens 8 Apr **SIAN PHILLIPS AS MARLENE** by Pam Gems

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000. Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks. **OLIVIER** Tonight 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 **GUYS AND DOLLS** Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Book by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows. **LYTTELTON** Tonight 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 (PREVIEWS) **LADY IN THE DARK** a musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill **COTTESLOE** Tonight 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** a new play by Martin McDonagh. **PLATFORM** Terrace Café, 3.00 Coffee & RUNYON READINGS 8.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5568 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT *Bars open at 6.45* **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 24hrs 420 0000 (no bkg fee) The Peter Hall Company Now Playing **WASTE** by **Harley Granville Barker** From March 10 **CLOUD NINE** by **Caryl Churchill** From March 23 **HURLYBURLY** by **David Rabe** **7 days a week/10 perfs. a week** Mon-Sun at 7.30, Thur & Sat mats 2.30 Sun at 2.30 or 4.00. Tickets £10 - £19

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** LES MISERABLES **NOW IN ITS 12TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE**

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PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs) Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5 **THE PETER HALL COMPANY PETER BOWLES CARMEN SILVERA HENRY McGEE ERIC SYKES** in Molière's hilarious comedy THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES **"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS"** D.Mail

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ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane) **THE SHALLOW END** by **Doug Lucie** Mon-Sat 7.30 Sat mat 3.30, 6 & 15 Mar, until 15 Mar. Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) Starts Tonight **ATTEMPS ON HER LIFE** by **Martin Crimp**, Mon-Sat 7.45 (7.00 12 Mar) Sat mat 4.00 (from 15 Mar) Until 5 Apr

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee) Grps 420 0200 **SIMON CALLOW THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR The Wit, Triumph & Tragedy of Oscar Wilde** by Michael MacLiammoir Prevs from Thur. Opens 18 Mar

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 45th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5568 **"BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT"** Sun **"BUDDY" "WONDERFUL STUFF"** Sun Tel **"BUDDY"** Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 **Sunday 4.00** *ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF* **8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR** Now booking 'till October 4

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VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/420 0000 *Groups 0171 312 1995 /0171 436 5568 (no fee)* **WINNER 1996 OLIVIER AWARDS** BEST MUSICAL "JOLSON" WITH BRIAN CONLEY **"A RESOUNDING HIT"** Sunday Telegraph Evgs, Tues to Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra special ½ price mat Thurs at 3.00 starring Allen Stewart **3 weeks till London engagement ends prior to World Tour.**

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Messiaen Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum

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Adan v Secretary of State for the Home Department
Noor v Same
Lazarevic v Same
Radivojevic v Same

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment February 13]

An asylum seeker unable to return to his country of origin might be entitled to recognition as a refugee under article 1A(2) of the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1961) (Cmnd 3906), provided only that the fear or actuality of past persecution still played a causative part in his presence in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing the appeals of Hassan Hussein Adan and Lool Isaak Nouh, and dismissing the appeals of Boban Lazarevic and Zoran Radivojevic from the decisions of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal dated January 19, 1996; March 22, 1996; January 22, 1996 and May 7, 1996 respectively. The tribunal had held in each case that the asylum seeker was not entitled to refugee status.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Raza Husain for Adan and Noor; Mr Ian Lewis for Lazarevic and Radivojevic; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark Shaw for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the appeal raised a number of difficult questions as to the proper construction and application of the Convention, one of them so fundamental that it seemed remarkable that the court was now, 46 years on, confronted with it for the first time. That fundamental question concerned the very definition of the term "refugee" in article 1A(2) of the Convention.

The issue was whether it was always necessary for a person unable to return to his home country to show a current well founded fear of persecution or whether a historical fear might sometimes suffice: whether, to put it more precisely, the Home Secretary was right in submitting that to be a refugee a person must in every case have a current well founded fear of persecution were he to be returned to his country of origin, or whether, as the appellants argued, if in fact he was currently "unable ... to avail himself of the protection of" his country of origin, it was sufficient that at some time past he had come to be abroad through fear of persecution; fear which made him either flee his country of origin or, if he was already abroad, remain abroad due to circumstances arising in his country of origin during his absence.

There were significant advantages in being recognised as a refugee beyond irremovability.

In the first place, there were advantages under the Convention, such as entitlement to travel documents to enble them to travel abroad and entitlement to the same treatment with respect to public relief and assistance as was accorded to nationals. They might not, therefore, be deprived of benefits as, in the United Kingdom, refused asylum seekers were.

Second, under national law too, there were significant advantages in recognition, albeit conferred as a matter of discretion. One advantage was that refugees obtained indefinite leave to remain after four years, whereas those granted exceptional leave must generally wait for seven years.

Similarly, refugees were entitled to immediate family reunion whereas those with exceptional leave normally had to wait four years and, moreover, a special policy was applied to Somali refugees enabling them to bring in their extended families.

The point, when it was likely to be determinative of whether or not refugee status in fact arose, could only ever be decisive when an asylum seeker was in reality unable to return home: if he could return home then he must, unless he could establish a present fear of persecution.

Equally the point would never be decisive unless the fear of persecution existed at some time past but had now ended. The coincidence of those two circumstances would be rare, which explained why the issue had not previously arisen, save at tribunal level.

Under article 1A(2), which his Lordship proposed to break down into a series of clauses and number for convenience, a refugee was someone who:

1(a) owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for [a Convention reason] was outside the country of his nationality, and (b)(i) was unable to avail himself of the protection of that country, or (ii) owing to such fear, was unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who:

2(a) not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, (b)(i) was unable to return to it, or (ii) owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for [a Convention reason] was unwilling to return to it.

The strength of the Home Secretary's argument, for saying that no one was entitled to refugee status unless at the time his claim was determined he was in present fear of persecution were he to be returned home, lay in the use of the phrase "is outside" in clause 1(a); its weakness lay in the difficulty in finding convincing reasons why the definition also included clause 1(b).

As to clause 1(b)(i), Mr Pannick submitted that that further test was needed to deal with "people who have a well founded fear and who wish to return but who were simply unable to return".

As to clause 1(b)(ii), a clause qualified, unlike clause 1(b)(i), by the requirement that the applicant's unwillingness be "owing to such fear", that additional element in the definition Mr Pannick sought to explain thus: "the second alternative, being unwilling to return, does need to be qualified. That is because there may be many reasons why a person is unwilling to return. So the draftsman has made it plain that a mere unwillingness is not enough. He must be unwilling because of 'such fear', that is the current well founded fear previously mentioned."

Returning to clause 1(a), as a matter of language it seemed to his Lordship that the phrase "is outside", although couched in the present tense, could sensibly be construed to have any one of three meanings.

It could mean, as Mr Pannick submitted it did, was outside owing to a well founded fear of persecution still current at the time the asylum application was under consideration; or it could mean has at some time however long in the past come to be outside on account of such fear, and for whatever reason had never thereafter left; or, and that his Lordship understood to be Mr Blake's finally preferred submission for the appellants, it could mean had come to be outside, or being already outside, not to return, owing to past persecution and still remained abroad on that account, in the sense that the causal link remained operative and had never been broken.

While his Lordship readily accepted that the issue was one of considerable difficulty, and that anomalies might appear to arise on either view, he had concluded that Mr Blake's arguments were to be preferred and that an asylum seeker unable to return to his country of origin might indeed be entitled to recognition as a refugee provided only that the fear or actuality of past persecution still played a causative part in his presence in the UK.

Lord Justice Hutchison delivered a judgment agreeing on the above issue and Lord Justice Thorpe delivered a judgment disagreeing with the reasoning of the majority on the above issue but concurring with the result.

Solicitors: Wilson & Co, Tottenham; Sutovic & Hartigan, Acton; Treasury Solicitor.

Liability for helicopter passenger limited

Fellowes (or Herd) and Another v Clyde Helicopters Ltd

Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[Speeches February 27]

The flight of a helicopter used within the regional boundary of the police authority, which had hired the helicopter, was not an international carriage and was governed by Schedule 1 to the Carriage by Air Acts (Application of Provisions) Order (SI 1967 No 480). The police officer on the helicopter performing police duties, with no duties towards the operation of the helicopter, was a passenger within article 17 of the Schedule.

The liability of the carrier for each passenger was limited by article 22 and any action for damages was excluded by article 24(2) except in accordance with the conditions and limits set out in the Schedule. For the Schedule to apply it was unnecessary for a person to be carried under a contract to which he was a party or the contract to be of a particular type.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by the pursuer appellants: (i) Pauline Mary Fellowes (or Herd), the widow of Sergeant Malcolm Calder Herd, deceased, as guardian of their four children, and (ii) Jessie McDonald (or Herd or Rivera), the mother of Sergeant Herd, from an interlocutor dated May 5, 1995 of the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) and Lord Morrison, Lord Murray dissenting) (1996 SLT 976) refusing the pursuers' reclaiming motion against the interlocutor dated March 24, 1994 of the Lord Ordinary, Lord Milligan.

The pursuers raised an action against the defenders, Clyde Helicopters Ltd, claiming reparation at common law for the death of Sgt Herd in a helicopter crash on January 24, 1990. The helicopter was supplied by Clyde.

The pursuers claimed damages for negligence of Clyde's pilot. The court below held that the claim was excluded by paragraphs 3 and 4 of, and Schedule 1 to the 1967 Order.

Article 1 of Schedule 1 to the 1967 Order provided that the Schedule applied to all carriage of persons performed by aircraft for reward and equally to gratuitous carriage.

Article 17 provided that the carrier was liable for damage sustained in the event of the death or wounding of a passenger if the accident took place on board the aircraft.

Article 22 stated that in the carriage of persons the liability of the carrier for each passenger was limited.

Article 24(2) provided that in the cases covered by article 17 any action for damages, however founded, could only be brought subject to the conditions and limits set out in the Schedule.

Mr M. S. Jones, QC, of the Scots and English Bars, Mr G. J. B. Moynihan and Miss Shona Haldane, both of the Scots Bar, for the pursuers: Mr R. S. Keen, QC and Mr R. B. M. Howie, both of the Scots Bar, for Clyde.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that at the time of his death Sgt Herd was a member of the helicopter unit of Strathclyde Police Force. His duties were to carry out aerial surveillance and detection. The helicopters used by the unit were supplied by Clyde in terms of a contract between Clyde and Strathclyde Regional Council, as local police authority.

On the date of his death Sgt Herd and two colleagues were carrying out their duties on board one of those helicopters. During the flight a snow storm was encountered as a result of which the pilot, an employee of Clyde, became lost, an engine failure occurred and the helicopter collided with a block of flats on the south side of Glasgow. Sgt Herd sustained fatal injuries.

The duties of Sgt Herd and his police colleagues, while they were on board the helicopters, were to direct the surveillance operations on which the helicopters were engaged: to give the necessary instructions to the pilots; to inform the pilots of the manoeuvres which they wished them to carry out and generally to act as observers and to provide information to the pilots during the course of each flight.

On the occasion of the fatal flight Clyde's pilot was Captain Graham Pryke, who was solely responsible for the flying of the helicopter and all decisions related thereto.

It was clear that Sgt Herd was being carried by Clyde's helicopter at the time of his death and that carriage was performed by Clyde in terms of the requirement to carry such numbers of people and equipment as required by the chief constable or his authorised representatives. Thus under the words of article 1, the Schedule applied to carriage of Sgt Herd.

The activities which Sgt Herd was carrying on while on the aircraft were not to be regarded as contributing in any way to the carriage of himself or the other persons on board. He was, therefore, properly regarded as a passenger.

Article 22 limited the liability of the carrier for each passenger. That article applied directly to liability for Sgt Herd and for his death. The provision of article 24(2) plainly excluded any action for damages except in accordance with the conditions and limits set out in the Schedule and accordingly effectively limited the claims of pursuers to liability provided for in article 17, leaving the distribution of the total amount available between the persons having the right thereto in the proportion to be determined by the law of Scotland.

However, the application of the Schedule did not require that Sgt Herd should have been carried under a contract to which he was a party or under a contract of any particular type, if he was being carried for reward.

Lord Nicholls, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde agreed, Lord Hope delivered a concurring opinion.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co for Balfour & Manson, Edinburgh, for Levy & McRae, Glasgow and Reynolds Porter Chamberlain for John G. Gray & Co, SSC, Edinburgh, for John Wilson & Co, Glasgow: Beaumont & Son for Maclay Murray & Spens, Glasgow.

Fire authorities owe no duty of care in tort to owners

Nelson Holdings Ltd v British Gas plc and Others

Before Mr Justice Rimer

[Judgment December 5]

Fire authorities ordinarily owed no duty of care in tort to individual property owners when fighting a fire.

Mr Justice Rimer, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a judgment delivered in open court after a hearing in chambers, allowing an application by Surrey County Council, third defendant, to strike out a claim for negligence brought against it by Nelson Holdings Ltd following substantial damage by fire to its property in Surrey.

Mr Michael Kent, QC, for Nelson: Mr Malcolm Chapple for British Gas and Southern Electricity Board; Mr John Ross for Surrey County Council.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that at 7.15am on October 16, 1987 Surrey Fire Brigade attended the property to extinguish a fire. A gas leak was identified during the operation and the fire brigade evacuated the premises and called British Gas to attend to cut off the supply.

The brigade remained at the scene awaiting British Gas, and some two hours later, before British Gas had arrived, there was a gas explosion and a further fire which caused substantial additional damage.

Nelson alleged, inter alia, that the fire brigade was negligent in failing to take adequate steps to turn off the gas supply and prevent further emission of gas into the property and the subsequent explosion. Breach of statutory duty was not pleaded.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant legislation. It did not impose any duty on a fire brigade to attend a fire, but conferred on it a power to do so. He concluded that the considerations in *Stovin v Wise* (*The Times* July 26, 1996; [1996] AC 923) as to when a statutory power could give rise to a common law duty of care did not apply. The fire brigade had already exercised that power in attending the fire and electing to await the arrival of British Gas.

The question his Lordship had to consider was whether, having exercised its power to attend the fire, Surrey Fire Brigade owed Nelson a common law duty as to the manner in which it discharged its fire fighting function.

His Lordship referred to the test in *Caparo v Dickman* ([1992] AC 605) and in particular whether it was fair, just and reasonable to impose such a duty on the fire brigade. He reviewed a number of recent decisions in which the issue had been considered.

In *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Great Britain) v Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority* (*The Times* May 9, 1996) Judge William Crawford, QC, had held that it would not be fair, just and reasonable, and would be contrary to public policy to impose a duty.

In *John Munroe (Acrylics) Ltd v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and Others* (*The Times* May 22, 1996; [1996] 3 WLR 988) Mr Justice Rougier had held that ordinarily there was not sufficient proximity between the fire authority and an individual property owner for the duty to arise.

However, in *Capital Counties plc v Hampshire County Council and Others* (*The Times* April 26, 1996; [1996] 3 WLR 1553) Judge Richard Havery, QC, had held that the fire authority owed the plaintiffs a duty of care not to commit positive acts of negligence. In a subsequent judgment on quantum, the judge, having considered *Latter Day Saints* and *Munroe*, affirmed his decision on liability and rejected the public policy arguments canvassed in those cases.

His Lordship considered Judge Havery's reasoning with which he respectfully disagreed. He found it impossible to accept that, if a fire brigade owed any duty of care in tort at all as to the manner in which it handled its fire-fighting operations, it would be limited to avoiding the commission of positive acts and not extend also to a duty not to commit negligent omissions. If it were to be subject to a duty of care at all, it must be a duty to exercise reasonable care in fighting the fire.

As far as the crucial question of whether it was fair, just and reasonable for the fire brigade to be subject to any such duty was concerned, his Lordship preferred the reasoning in *Latter Day Saints* and *Munroe*, and found that it was not.

There was a risk that such a duty would lead to defensive fire fighting. It was inevitable that fire officers would deal with some fires more successfully than with others and it would be intolerable if, in the difficult and dangerous emergency situation in which they were often required to operate, the fire services were subject to the risk of having their every action crawled over in litigation in an attempt to recreate from the ashes of the disaster precisely what happened and how.

Further, there was no indication in the Fire Services Act 1947 that it was any part of its policy that fire authorities should be subject to a duty of care in tort. Its provisions suggested that a local public inquiry was intended to be the arena for raising issues as to the standards of the fire services, not litigation.

Moreover, the likely consequence of imposing a duty would be that any claims against the fire authorities would be prosecuted by insurance companies. His Lordship could see no good reason why the policy of the law of tort should move in a direction which required public funds to be applied in improving insurance companies' profits or mitigating their losses.

His Lordship was aware that all three cases were on their way to the Court of Appeal, and that consequently the law was in some state of uncertainty. Nevertheless, he was not bound to follow Judge Havery's decision and he had come to the clear view that the council owed Nelson no duty of care.

Solicitors: Beachcroft Stanleys; Cartwright Cunningham Haselgrove & Co; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Power to hold passport

In re A-K (Minors) (Foreign passport: Jurisdiction)

It was well within the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court to order the surrender of a foreign passport in order to protect the interests of children.

The Court of Appeal (Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Ward) so held on February 18, when dismissing an appeal from the order of Mr Justice Wall on March 8, 1996, inter alia, that the father's Iranian passport should be held by his solicitors and should not be released except with the agreement of the mother or by order of the court.

THE PRESIDENT said that the case had been a long history including the three-year abduction of one of the children involved.

The trial judge had given full and fair consideration to the matter and had decided that the only way to allay the mother's fears of another abduction was to order limited supervised contact in a secure room at the Royal Courts of Justice, together with the surrender of the father's passport to his solicitors.

Rejecting the submission that section 37 of the Family Law Act 1986 only gave power to order the surrender of a United Kingdom passport and therefore the court had no power to order the surrender of a foreign national's passport, his Lordship said that it was well within the inherent jurisdiction of the court to order such surrender in the interests of the children's welfare.

Money abiding event not subject to charge

McKay v Legal Aid Board

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment January 23]

When a party was granted legal aid to defend proceedings, moneys previously paid by him into court by way of security for costs were not moneys which were the subject matter of the proceedings in issue, but were to abide the event, and therefore were not subject to a charge by the Legal Aid Board.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing the appeal of Keith Ian McKay against the order of Mr Justice Gage on June 16, 1995, to the effect that the board was entitled, under the Legal Aid Act 1988, to a charge over the sum of £3,173.80 paid by Mr McKay into Hemel Hempstead County Court to defend a money claim brought against him by others, and subsequently ordered to be paid to his solicitors when that claim was compromised and dismissed. The Court of Appeal granted a declaration that the board was not entitled to a charge over the sum.

Miss Elizabeth Gumbel for the appellant: Mr Charles Utley for the board.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that in the course of the county court proceedings against the appellant, he had paid, under court order, the sum of £3,173.80 into court to abide the event.

After judgment was entered against him by the claimants and the money paid into court ordered to be paid out in their favour, the appellant obtained a full legal aid certificate to set the judgment aside and, if successful, to defend the action.

The appellant did succeed, the claim was dismissed and the sum in court was directed to be paid to his solicitors. The board claimed to be entitled to exercise its statutory charge over the sum.

His Lordship said that the issue was whether section 16(6) of the 1988 Act applied so that the fruits of a successful application to set the judgment aside were now liable to the board's charge.

Following the relevant test to be applied, see *Hanlon v The Law Society* ([1981] AC 124, 180, 185, 187), the first question, whether the money in court was recovered or preserved, depended on whether it had been in issue.

There was no doubt, in his Lordship's view, that the money which had been paid to the claimants and so had become their money was recovered by the appellant's application to set aside the judgment, in the sense that it had to be paid back. Furthermore, by being left in court to abide the event, it was preserved.

However, the claim was for damages for breach of contract for failure to complete building work and to rectify work not properly carried out, and the appellant denied he was under any contractual obligation, or that he was in breach. The issue in the pleadings did not in any way relate to the money in court in any sense.

On that analysis the money in court was not recovered nor preserved by the determination of the action between the parties to the claim. A successful defendant in such an action did not preserve his assets by defeating a plaintiff's claim.

If different answers could be given to the first question, the appeal depended on the answer to the second question, what were the proceedings in which the appellant was represented with the benefit of legal aid?

Having considered the wording of the appellant's applications for legal aid, his Lordship said that plainly the certificate granted to him covered both the application for leave to set aside the judgment but also the continued defence of "proceedings brought by [the claimants]".

The proceedings referred to were the action. They were the proceedings specified in Part I of Schedule 2 to the 1988 Act. If they were to be confined only to the application to set aside then the certificate should have been limited to that application.

A certificate might be issued in respect of the whole or part of the proceedings: regulation 46 of the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 339). By issuing one certificate covering both aspects, the greater, namely the action, had subsumed the later, namely the application to set aside, and the greater had to prevail.

Counsel for the board conceded, rightly, in his Lordship's view, that where in the course of an action money was paid into and then out of court and paid back again, it would be difficult to argue that a legal aid certificate covering the conduct of the action entitled a charge to be levied against the money in court.

It was not without significance that counsel had produced no authority in over 100 years of the solicitors Acts nor in nearly 50 years of the legal aid Acts supporting a proposition that money paid out of court was money recovered or preserved.

In re Wadsworth; Rhodes v Sugden (1885) 29 Ch D 517, 520) was authority for the contrary proposition. The point of the judgment in that case, with which his Lordship agreed, was that money paid by way of security for costs could not in any sense be described as moneys which were the subject matter of the proceedings in issue.

The money in court in the present case, just as the money in court in the *Wadsworth* case, was to abide the event. There seemed to his Lordship to be no distinction between security provided to satisfy costs, and a sum giving security for the payment of the judgment sum.

By regulation 57(1)(c) of the 1989 Regulations the appellant's solicitors were obliged to seek recovery of the money in court. The regulations did not state, as easily as they could have stated, that any money in court paid back to the assisted person's solicitor was subject to the charge. Whether or not it was so subject had to depend on the facts of each case.

Lord Justice Pill gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed with Lord Justice Ward.

Solicitors: Alison Trent & Co; Mr R. Hamilton.

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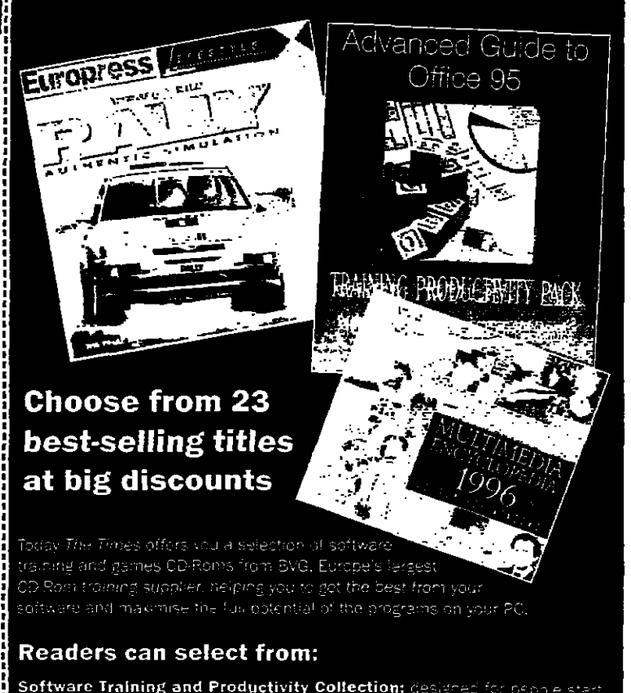
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EDUCATION

David Jamieson on Labour plans for bright youngsters and right, **Doug McAvoy** questions educational strategy

Gifted and young: we could do better

I know of no country other than Britain that has in its language pejorative words such as "boffin" and "egghead" to describe the gifted and very able. In Britain, attitudes towards high achievement in education are often negative. A political climate needs to be developed that raises our expectations of educational achievement in all children, including the gifted. All schools should seek to create an atmosphere in which to excel is not only acceptable but desirable.

A cultural environment in which ridicule and discouragement is meted out to those of high intellectual ability must be challenged. The education of gifted children should be seen within the wider context of raising educational standards for all children.

Britain survives economically on invention, innovation and development. These abilities are vital if we are to compete and survive in the global marketplace of the 21st century. The gifted children of today are most likely to be at tomorrow's cutting edge of economic success. Their needs must be met if Britain is to become a leading and competitive progressive economy after the millennium. The Conservatives have resorted to the simplistic devices of selection and the Assisted Places Scheme as methods of tackling the education of gifted children. Labour intends to offer every child the best start in life and to end the existing culture of complacency.

The issue of provision for gifted children is based on the ethos of equality of opportunity. Labour is convinced that the state sector has a duty and responsibility to provide an appropriate education for all children, including the gifted. Parents with gifted children should not feel any need to put their child through independent schooling.

In general, gifted children are defined as the top 2 to 3 per cent of children. Gifted children possess an unusually advanced intellectual or performance ability, with an outstanding ability in general or academic intelligence, creative thinking, mechanical or athletic ability, interpersonal or intrapersonal skills or visual or performing arts.

It is wrong to suppose that the gifted child will fully develop his or her talents regardless of any special educational provision. Gifted children require assistance, of differing kinds, if their full potential is to be realised. I believe that there are a number of realistic proposals to address the pressing need to attend to the education of the gifted.

After consultation, all local education authorities (LEAs) should draw up and implement a policy on the needs of gifted children. Similarly, all schools should have a stated policy on provision for gifted children and, where appropriate, should draw up a written policy on provision for gifted children in each subject. Schools must also be required to state in their prospectuses their arrangements for identifying gifted children and the provision that can be expected.

> Extension classes could take place after school

Each LEA should have at least one person designated as adviser for gifted children and each school should have a nominated teacher to act as the co-ordinator for its policy on gifted children, and the associated programmes and provision within the school. Teacher-training courses should provide a specified minimum amount of time within the course for the identification of, and provision for, gifted children. A policy on the education provision for gifted children should be realistic and aimed at the average teacher, teaching in the average school.

Accelerated learning, which Tony Blair and David Blunkett support, is a useful strategy that can take a number of flexible forms, such as movement up by years or placement in higher group in a specific subject. However, gifted children should be given appropriate peer-group placement and groupings of gifted children can provide the social skills, competition and teamwork that gifted children need to develop their potential. There should still be procedures to ensure that such groups are not isolated from the normal school environment.

Extension classes could take place at lunchtime, on Saturday mornings or any other appropriate time and could make use of longer-term projects that do not have to fit within the restrictions of the normal school timetable. It is important to follow an open-door policy and apply it during these extra study periods. There is evidence that such classes can contribute to the general raising of standards, performance and expectations in the school as a whole, especially in the top 10 per cent of ability.

There is a need for a standard recognition of degree credits to enable gifted children to undertake part of a degree before going on to university to complete it. Thus a form of credit bank could be founded to enable gifted children to remain within their own age group yet achieve a base from which to springboard to higher education.

Last year I visited Monkseaton Community High School in Whitley Bay near Newcastle to see a project in which ten sixth-formers at the school had embarked on an Open University maths foundation course. At the end of the year, all of them passed, five winning distinctions. The students learnt about self-motivation, unsupervised study and personal organisation — qualities that will stand them in good stead in higher education.

Extracurricular courses, clubs and competitions, operating with local branches of gifted children organisations, local universities or colleges, or subject-based professional associations, should be encouraged. The use of older pupils or adults as mentors (under adequate and ultimate teacher supervision) could help to develop their skills and knowledge. Gifted children need to acquire empathy with and insight into children from a broad spectrum of abilities and interests. Comprehensive schools that develop and nurture a specialisation, for example in technology, science or music, should be assisted, on the basis that they remain non-selective.

Labour envisages a new Teachers' Centre as part of the new university industry on the Internet designed to provide teachers with the materials and advice that will enable them to raise standards and teach to the best of their ability. We will enable schools to make the most of information technology and all schools should be cabled up to the information superhighway. Internet relay talk could provide gifted children with access to tuition and experts outside their own schools without the need to travel.

There could be greater co-operation and association with, and possibly integration of, the national (and international) organisations that exist for gifted children to assist with the formulation and development of LEA and school policy on gifted children.

Britain must rise to the challenge set by countries such as Korea and Singapore and aspire to the highest level. Remoulding British attitudes to education and developing the provision for gifted children could play a central role in this and will also give us a head start over our European competitors.

During the Industrial Revolution, Britain relied upon innovation, enterprise, investment, capital, machines and building to succeed. As we enter the new century the neglect and loss of such talent would severely hinder our country's development. We need to invest in the skills and talents of our people. That is why it is vital that we give the special needs of our gifted children a high priority.

● *David Jamieson is Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport and a former vice-principal of a community college. Labour's discussion document,* The Education of Gifted Children, *is available from David Jamieson, MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.*

DAMIEN McFADDEN/NORTHANTS PRESS AGENCY



Sufiah Yusof was educated at home and is on her way to St Hilda's College, Oxford, at the age of 12

Doing arithmetic for a reading and writing plan

A national approach to literacy needs to be practical

Any government that places literacy at the heart of its educational strategy must be on the right track. While the recent Labour initiative deserves support, I hope the party's task group understands the conditions needed for its success.

Schools with similar pupil intakes may have differences in performance, but no easy assumptions should be made, because they can be converted into ill-targeted blame, demoralising rather than motivating teachers. Next week's publication of primary school league tables will be a classic example of this. It is far better to look at the practical steps needed to enable the initiative to work.

The Government's National Literacy Project (NLP) involves a small number of local education authorities and schools. Within it, a national framework for teaching literacy has been developed, but it is at a pilot stage. The project has a waiting list of schools wanting to participate, indicating teacher enthusiasm. However, it would be a mistake to assume that the project can simply be imposed on schools, with existing training days automatically reallocated to literacy training. Imposition caused serious problems in the past, as we saw with the national curriculum. Equally, the displacement of the training and other work taking place on those days, regardless of the needs of individual schools, could trigger more problems than solutions.

One of the many mistakes behind the introduction of the national curriculum was that schools received the subject orders and were simply expected to get on with it. Adequate in-service training was never made available. The NLP has the potential for real education authority and school involvement in a "bottom up" approach to developing literacy. A model capable of harnessing teachers' enthusiasm should involve the extension of properly funded literacy centres to all education authorities. As well as providing training, the centres would be seen both as a resource and as places where new initiatives could be developed by teachers themselves.

Neither the introduction of the old national curriculum nor the revised one was costed. The effects of this mistake were charted for the National Union of Teachers in 1991 by Coopers & Lybrand, which noted that "the balance of the primary curriculum had shifted away from reading, writing and numbers towards the national curriculum subjects".

Further approaches must be developed. First is that the cost of training for the teaching of the revised English curriculum must be audited and provided for by the Government. The NLP requires participating primary English co-ordinators to be given a week's training, with additional training during the year. But that would backfire if it were seen as a "bolt-on". The range of subjects to be covered by teachers remains a problem. Sir Ron Dearing's 20 per cent non-curriculum time in primary schools does not exist.

A core "entitlement" curriculum should be defined. Schools would need to have regard to a wider curriculum but would need the flexibility to devote as much time to the core as they felt necessary.

The Government must halt worsening teacher-pupil ratios. Leicester University's research for the NUT on links between class size and pupil achievement found that excessive overall class sizes limited the ability of schools to enable all children to spend part of their school day in small groups, an essential prerequisite for the teaching of literacy.

Labour has a chance, if in government, to establish a partnership with schools through its literacy initiative. Labour should take it.

● *Doug McAvoy is general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.*



McAvoy: does Labour understand?

Your guide to all the guides

What's the best source of information on independent schools? **Susan Elkin** sifts through the publications

Guides to independent schools are big business. Any prospective parent — especially a first-time "consumer" who may not know much about private education — is likely to encounter *The Gabbitas Guide to Independent Schools* (£11.99), *Hobsons Guide to Independent Boarding Schools* (£9.95), *Independent Schools of the United Kingdom* (£9.95) and the *Independent Schools Yearbook* (£24), to mention just a few. There are also numerous guides and supplements published by — or in connection with — magazines and newspapers.

How do you distil the truth from the hype? The answer is to make a few educated guesses or discreet inquiries about how the guide's contents have been assembled, how it has been financed and who will profit from it. Bear in mind that many guides are actually quite expensive.

There are two types of guides. One contains a series of advertising and promotional articles about schools and issues related to them. These have been written by the schools as part of their marketing strategy.

The second type of guide is produced independently.

The glossy colour *Hobsons Guide to Independent Boarding Schools*, for example, falls into the first category. Even Eton College has an advertisement in it (at £875 for a half-page). Some schools — for example, Merchant Taylor's School, in the 1996-97 edition — opt for a full-page (£1,305) "case study" of a past pupil instead of, or as well as, a half or full-page school "profile".

The name and crest of Mill Hill School Foundation elegantly decorates a laminated plastic bookmark attached to the *Hobsons Guide* with a tasteful satin ribbon in Prussian blue. I doubt that Mill Hill was accorded this privilege without paying for it. Of course, there is nothing wrong with any of this, but prospective parents need to be aware that information may be anything but impartial.

These guides usually contain informative commentary by renowned experts in, and supporters of, independent education. The *Hobsons Guide* contains articles by Enid Castle, former Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, and by Graeme Searle, the National Director of Independent Schools Careers Organisation (ISCO).

Most of these guides also publish full listings and basic information about the schools in their category — at no charge to the school. The *Gabbitas Guide to Independent Education*, whose third edition has just been published by Kogan Page, lists schools by area. As with *Hobsons*, the more detailed accounts of certain schools which occupy about half of this 600-page book are paid for (at more than £1,000 each) by the schools themselves, so disinterest is thin on the ground. That is not, however, to belittle the usefulness of the general information about independent schooling, addresses of education organisations and comprehensive data about available scholarships and other details that *Gabbitas* amply provides.

The second type of school guide is based on an inspection or appraisal of the school by an outsider, for which the schools pay nothing. One example is *The Daily Telegraph Schools Guide*, whose third edition is due out later this year. The "inspectors" are retired heads, teachers, education journalists and school governors.

Hundreds of schools, including some in the maintained sector, are assessed. But the approach is haphazard. Not every school is included. How are they chosen? Furthermore, the assessment is the potentially offbeat opinion of a single person who spent one day or less at the school. It probably tells you more, however, than a self-promoting piece written by the school's publicity department.

The *Telegraph* guide's second edition cost £11.99.

The Sunday Times sponsors the 800-page *The Equitable Schools Book* (£15.99), described in *The Sunday Telegraph* as "the *Wisden* of the fee-paying circuit". The 520 reports, which are informative but never critical, cover a larger slice of the sector than most guides, although inevitably it is still selective.

Some newspapers — *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, for example — publish free school supplements. From time to time these give fairly impartial, factual information about independent schools and are good for the basics. The Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) produces booklets which list schools on a regional basis and there is now a comprehensive CD-Rom, also from Isis.

Probably the most useful guide is the no-frills *Independent Schools Year Book*, which you will almost certainly find sitting in your local public reference library. It lists the 1,500 schools (for pupils aged three to 18) who are members of the five independent school associations. Fees and scholarship availability are detailed and there is a staff list for each school.

CHRIS HARRIS



Boys at Eton College: but how do "first-time" parents find out what Eton is really like?

Er, Mummy, you're not coming with me, are you?

WHEN John Coleman, director of the Trust for the Study of Adolescence, accompanied his son to a university interview, his offspring gave strict instructions on how to dress: no loud ties, no swanky suits, no scruffy jeans — nothing embarrassing.

Thus was trodden the fine line between parent as morale-boosting, advice-giving taxi driver and parent as liability. "Should we go with them" is a dilemma faced by many families as 17 and 18-year-olds criss-cross the country in search of a place in higher education.

Dr Coleman thinks the cue should come from the child. "Talk it over beforehand," he says. "Try to feel your way on whether they want the support of your presence or would feel cramped by it. They might be worrying about your feelings, so if they say 'It's up to you, Mum', Mum probably should not go.

"If you do go, have a good look around and perhaps investigate some of the things your child may not have thought about, such as the location; it might be too isolated for them. What parents must not do is let their own memories and experiences colour their approach. It is difficult to come up to date but university is very different today.

"The other parental sin is to push in. Keep in the background; do not try to impress tutors. You'll only make the child nervous."

Allan Johnson, the chairman of the Higher Education Liaison Officers' Association, says: "Even the maximum grant will probably cover less than 50 per cent of the total cost, so parents may have to stump up a significant amount and they are very concerned about their investment.

"They are also concerned about their child's career prospects at the end of a course

"Another reason is that



sometimes a particular institution or city will have had a bad press and parents want to reassure themselves about accommodation and personal safety, especially if the child is going from a rural to an urban area."

Margaret McGowan of the Advisory Centre for Education, recommends "playing it by ear". Her daughter went to an interview in Manchester with friends, but asked her mother to accompany her to Swansea. "She was a bit nervous," Mrs McGowan says. "She knew I'd disappear when she wanted me to."

Though most universities now have open days or other opportunities for families to look around, some selection processes, such as at Oxford, where candidates may stay three or four days in college, seem to exclude parental involvement. As Peter Baker, admissions tutor at Hertford College, explains: "The idea is that the students experience something of college life, and they could not do that if Mum and Dad were in a hotel in town and they had to keep going back there."

Sarah White, 23, president of the University of London Students Union, says: "It's best if families can go on open days, or tour the place separately. It's easier to find out what you really want to know if your parents are not there. You might want to ask the undergraduates who are doing the tour whether they like it or what the staff are like.

"I think that there is an increasing tendency to mollycoddle children. But going to university is part of growing up and you have to rely on yourself when you get here. So perhaps going to the interview alone should be one of the first steps towards that independence. After all, you're not going to have your mother with you for the next three years."

LIZ GILL

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CRICKET

Sussex members urged to join Pigott's rebellion

BY SIMON WILDE

NOT many people give up a good job in order to fight for the future of an organisation from which they were peremptorily sacked four years ago, but that is what Tony Pigott has done. He tendered his resignation as Surrey's assistant coach and second XI captain last week to attempt to revitalise Sussex, a club to which he gave 16 years of dedicated service and which is now in turmoil.

The Sussex committee has long been accused of mishandling players, never more so than in recent months, during which six capped players — Wells, Salisbury, Giddins, Law, Speight and Hall — have gone for various reasons, but it may come to most regret the departure of Pigott, who enjoyed three good years with Surrey after leaving Sussex.

Pigott is demanding the wholesale resignation of the committee and has called an extraordinary general meeting to try to bring this about, although it may not come to that; the committee met last night to discuss his action and Alan Caffyn, the chairman, may announce his resignation today.

Pigott, who runs a cricket management company that handles Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash, has an emotional attachment to Sussex cricket dating back to his boyhood, when he worshipped Ted Dexter and John Snow from the boundary at Hove.

His revolutionary fervour has been fanned by what happened after he arrived at Surrey, where members, angered by years of underachievement, demanded — and got — changes in management personnel and were rewarded last year with the club's first trophy in 14 years. Pigott, 38, recently addressed a meeting of the Sussex Cricket Society and said that if the members cared about Sussex they, too, should "rise up".



Giddins: dismissed

Pigott said his words met with a favourable response and, on Tuesday, Richard Barrow resigned from the committee — "after wrestling with my conscience for some time" — in protest at the lack of management and poor communication, complaints that lie at the heart of Pigott's campaign. As an example, Pigott cites the treatment of Wells, who was dismissed as captain last October and left for Kent. Wells had received an assurance that he would be reappointed, but Barrow said this was not mentioned at the meeting at which he was sacked.

Wells has since been singled out for criticism by Caffyn, prompting one recently departed player to use the word "scapegoat". "Nobody is accepting the blame for what is happening," Pigott said. "Everyone seems to be more concerned with their own position than with the club itself.

"Such things will not attract players and the youngsters who are coming through will not stay if the side is neither winning nor moving forward. Which sponsors will want to be associated with Sussex? Who will want to invest in the redevelopment of the Hove ground?"

Following Barrow's departure, four of the nine places on the committee now need to be filled after the annual meeting later this month, but Pigott, though he seeks a seat, does not want cosmetic changes, and neither does Barrow. "Sussex cannot go on as they are," Barrow said. "The current management style is clearly not working and a dynamic approach is imperative for the club's prosperity. It is essential that the remaining committee members meet with Tony prior to the AGM ... the last thing we want to promote is public wrangling."

Pigott sees the extraordinary meeting as a chance for members to decide the future of the committee. "To turn things round will require radical changes and long-term planning," he said.

"What is needed is new, young people with fresh ideas and who know something about cricket. There is only one former cricketer on the committee, John Barclay, and he has been away for the last four months. There is not even a cricket committee. Trouble has been storing up for more than 20 years. Man-management in cricket is not good and Sussex are no exception."

Among the 50 signatories Pigott gathered to force the EGM, which would probably take place next month, are former player in David Smith, Tony Buss, Peter Graves and Allan Green. If Pigott does not find a role at Sussex, he will return to Surrey, who are keeping his job open until his future is clear. "The two clubs are like chalk and cheese," he said, "but Surrey have come out of bad times and I don't see why Sussex cannot do the same."

MARC ASPLAND



Wells, above, sacked as captain, accepted an offer to join Kent while, below, from left, Law (Essex) Speight (Durham) and Salisbury (Surrey) also moved



Kent choose Wright

JOHN WRIGHT, the former New Zealand opening batsman and captain, who became one of the most popular and respected cricketers in England during his 12 seasons with Derbyshire, is set to return to the county game as Kent coach (Pat Gibson writes).

Wright, 42, is expected to be named today to succeed Daryl Foster, the West Australian who retired in January for personal and family reasons after five years as coach and cricket manager at Canterbury.

Wright, a determined left-hander renowned for his powers of concentration, first came to England in 1976 when he played for Kent second XI, but it was Derbyshire who signed him on a special registration. For them, he scored more than 1,000 runs in a season on six occasions.

He made his Test debut at Wellington in 1978 when New Zealand beat England for the first time. When he retired in 1993, he had scored more than 25,000 runs, 5,334 of them in his 82 Tests, in which he made 12 centuries.

SPORTS LETTERS

Referees need time to consider

From Mr Steven Dunkey

Sir, We all know it wasn't a penalty and suspect that, the instant after he gave it to Chelsea against Leicester City, Mike Reed, the referee, realised it wasn't one either. The problem was, and always is in such circumstances, that once he had awarded the penalty, Reed could not, dare not, alter his decision.

There was no going back. Chelsea took the spot kick, scored and one goal won the tie. Victory without honour was written all over the Chelsea players' faces, defeat by official mugging was on the faces of those in the Leicester camp. Neutrals despaired that the laws of the game so implemented had failed at the most extreme of moments when best quality decision-making is demanded. And that is all Reed had, an extreme moment in which to decide, with no time to consider.

I propose the following:

1. The referee (or referee's assistant) sees an offence that might give rise to a penalty award (currently he would give a penalty instantly).
2. The referee blows his whistle and stops play, in response to what he has witnessed.
3. By use of a clear, purpose-devised arm signal the referee indicates to players and spectators that a penalty award is under consideration.
4. The referee and both assistants must immediately confer as to whether, based on the evidence, a penalty award is justified or not.
5. Having considered the matter himself, and conferred with his assistants, the referee himself makes the decision as to a penalty award or not.
6. If a penalty is awarded, the kick is taken in the usual way. If there is no penalty, the referee resumes play in a way he deems appropriate.
7. Scrap the obstruction offence within the penalty area.

The nature of the officials' conference will depend on the clarity of the event giving rise to a penalty award being considered; for instance, hand ball on the goalline by a defender to prevent a goal may be so blatant as to merit only a moment's conference, whereas a less clear offence might require more time.

Crucially, a conference between the three officials will provide the referee time to consider, where at present there is no, or insufficient, time even to reconsider. Players and spectators will feel that all has been done to ensure fairer decision-making.

Yours sincerely,
STEVEN DUNKEY,
14 Glamis Drive,
Stone, Staffordshire.

From Mr G. I. Williams

Sir, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the poor standard of refereeing in the Football League.

It would appear that the role of the assistant referee is merely to copy the signals of the referee rather than to *assist* him by indicating when misconduct or other incident has occurred out of the vision of the referee.

While much of the criticism referees receive during a match is based on heat-of-the-moment bias from supporters, there does not seem to be a match that passes without some refereeing *faux pas*.

Although I accept that referees, like all human beings, are fallible, mistakes are made all too frequently, especially over offside, fouls and misconduct.

Yours faithfully,
G. I. WILLIAMS,
The House,
St Dunstan's College, SE6.

Windfall profits

From Mr J. Carter

Sir, As a consequence of the Taylor Report the Football Trust provided money to improve the structure of all stadiums of clubs then governed by the Football League.

At a time when income to the trust is falling, as a result of the National Lottery, and small clubs are facing bankruptcy and hardship, would it not be appropriate to empower the trust to impose a "windfall tax" on the extraordinarily high profits being made by directors and club officials on flotation of their clubs, whose assets have undoubtedly increased by virtue of the Football Trust expenditure?

Yours faithfully,
J. CARTER,
140 Longwood Road, Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands.

Rowell tactics questionable

From Mr Simon Goldberg

Sir, In reporting France's stunning victory over England (March 3), both David Hands and David Miller question Jack Rowell's failure to make tactical substitutions in the second half of the game.

Rowell's responses to similar questioning at the post-match press conference belie his astuteness as a rugby coach and successful businessman. The comment that "substitution is fraught with danger" may be true as a generalisation but not in the circumstances applying at the time. France's tactical substitutions were both risky but injected fresh pairs of legs which transformed the team's effort.

Rowell also said: "I didn't want to disrupt what was going on." What was going on was that England were backpedalling so much that it is difficult to envisage how substitutions could have adversely affected the situation. The introduction of a fresh scrum half and of one of the best centres in the British Isles could have saved the game.

A closer analysis of Rowell's answers leads one to conclude that his responses are born not from tactical logic but from his uneasy and over-defensive relations with the media.

Yours etc.,
SIMON GOLDBERG,
18 Harcombe Road, N16.

From Mr Matthew Farmer

Sir, Jack Rowell should be roundly applauded for keeping alive the spirit of amateurism in rugby. How easy it would have been for him to seek to grind French noses into the dust by bringing on Ben Clarke, Jeremy Guscott and Austin Healey. How boring it would have been to see another runaway result like the one against Ireland. By not making substitutions to counter the fresh legs brought on by the French, it produced a far closer and more exciting game. Vive la Corinthian Spirit — and well played France!

Yours etc.,
MATTHEW FARMER,
99 Trinity Court,
Grays Inn Road, WC1.

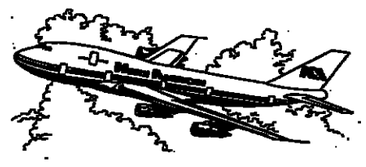
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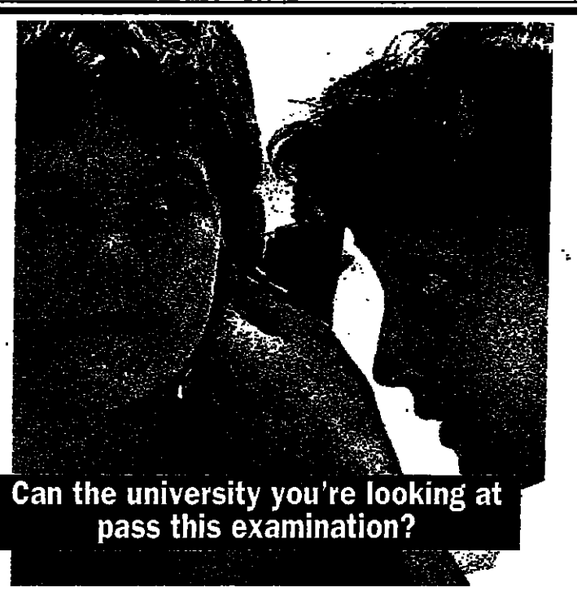
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I'm Supposin demonstrates the aptitude for accurate hurdling which underlines Prendergast's confidence in his championship prospects

I'm Supposin enters argument

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

KEVIN PRENDERGAST can be relied upon to speak his mind. It is an admirable trait, all the more so when his opinions could point backers towards the Champion Hurdle winner.

Since I'm Supposin, formerly useful on the Flat, won the first of his two hurdle races, the 64-year-old classic-winning trainer from the Curragh has insisted that the five-year-old is potentially championship class.

Such confidence can wane as the big day nears, but not Prendergast's. Asked what he was afraid of in the Champion Hurdle, Prendergast replied: "Interference."

He laughed when reminded of it, but remains convinced of his horse's chance. "It is simple. If we get him to Cheltenham in one piece, he is a good thing," he said.

Such a statement could be taken with several helpings of salt were Prendergast not one of the most consistently successful Irish trainers of the last 30 years. Prendergast has maintained the family's classic-winning tradition, started by his father, Paddy, with the likes of the 2,000 Guineas winner, Nebbiolo. Arctique Royale and, last year, Oscar Schindler. But he is no speed-fixated Flat trainer who has just discovered National Hunt racing's more rustic charms.

In 1967 he trained Talgo Abess to be placed third in the Champion Hurdle, and, from a handful of infrequent Festival runners, produced Prominent King to finish third in the 1976 Triumph Hurdle.

CHELTENHAM 97 FESTIVAL

"When I've been at Cheltenham it's been great, but I rarely train jumpers," Prendergast, who also saddles Our Bid in the Festival Bumper, said before remembering his riding days as one of Ireland's best amateurs. "There was no bumper for amateurs then, and I was far too careful to ride in the hunters' chase."

Charlie Swan will be in charge of I'm Supposin on Tuesday and Prendergast has no doubt his inexperienced horse's jumping will cope with the expected fast pace. "He has been a natural from day one. Alderbrook won a Champion Hurdle with only one previous run and this fellow is in the same mould, only bigger. The faster they go, the better. It will suit him because of his high cruising speed," he said.

"This is a horse who was beaten only 1½ lengths by Pilsudski last year. Take Oscar Schindler out of the Irish Leger and I'm Supposin has only been beaten four lengths by an Oaks winner [Key Change]. There's nothing else in the Champion Hurdle capable of doing that."

With the connections of Collier Bay, Relkeel and Space Trucker anxiously looking to the skies for different varieties of help, Prendergast is unconcerned about the ground. On hard going last summer, I'm Supposin won the Ulster Derby and, in his latest race, readily handled bad ground to beat the highly rated novice, Finnegan's Hollow, at Naas.

Alderbrook and Royal Gait, the 1992 champion, showed what a novice, battle-hardened from the Flat, can do if he has a natural aptitude for hurdling. Backers will soon know if I'm Supposin's performance will speak as loudly as his trainer's belief in him.

AYR

THUNDERER

1.50 Lumback Lady. 2.20 Real Tonic. 2.55 Bang In Trouble. 3.30 Disco Des Mottes. 4.00 Frozen Stiff. 4.35 Menaldi.

Carl Evans: 4.00 Frozen Stiff.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 LOCH DOON NATIONAL HUNT MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,336: 2m) (11 runners)

1 6-5 ALDERBROOK 112 A Williams 5-11-8 ... D Foster
2 11F3 CARLISLE BANDITO'S 14 (BF,F) J Berry 5-11-8 ... M Moloney
3 003 COTTSTOWN BOY 13 Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-3 ... M Foster
4 3-63 DESARME 27 G Richards 5-11-8 ... A Dobbin
5 00 LA RIVIERA 32 J Charles 5-11-6 ... K Johnson
6 - PRINCE OF THYME Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-8 ... G Cahill
7 00P- GRANGE RAMBLER 322 D Robertson 6-11-3 ... J Burke
8 P CREAM O THE BORDER 27 A Whillans 5-11-3 ... F Perratt
9 4522 LUMBACK LADY 10 B Hetherton 7-11-3 ... P Carberry
10 400F MEADOWLECK 24 W Young 5-11-3 ... B Storey
11 20 ONE STOP 21 M Barnes 4-10-9 ... S Taylor (5)

2-1 Desarme, 3-1 Lumback Lady, Carlisle Bandito's, 7-1 La Riviera, 9-1 others.

2.20 JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (£3,119: 2m) (6)

1 33F1 SINGING SAND 23 (D,F) P Monteith 7-11-10 ... A Dobbin
2 1-F1 REAL TONIC 3 (G) J Richards 7-11-10 ... P Carberry
3 2-00 ARAGON AYR 7 (S,S) P Monteith 9-11-4 ... M Moloney
4 -F00 CORSTON JOKER 39 L Lungo 7-11-4 ... J Callaghan
5 6023 MOORAN 20 A Whillans 6-11-4 ... B Storey
6 -00F SHUT UP 23 (G) Mrs E Mcewan 6-10-13 ... K Johnson

5-4 Real Tonic, 9-4 Aragon Ayr, 9-2 Singing Sand, 5-1 Mooran, 16-1 others

2.55 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,815: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 1313 MILITARY ACADEMY 8 (C,D,S,S) G Richards 8-12-0 P Carberry
2 -0P6 BANG IN TROUBLE 11 (C,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 R McGrath (5)
3 -111 TRIBUNE 11 (D,F,G) C Thornton 6-11-6 (6ex) ... M Foster
4 4-20 LEADING PROSPECT 38 (S,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-10-13 N Hannocks (7)
5 0235 SMIDDY LAD 11 A Stiell 6-10-11 ... D Bentley
6 2F-6 FESTIVAL FANCY 7 (S,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-9 ... G Lee (3)
7 1565 HUDSON BAY TRADER 8 (D,S,S) P Beaumont 10-10-0 Miss P Robson
8 0042 SUNNY LEITH 24 P Monteith 6-10-0 ... A Dobbin

2-1 Tribune, 5-2 Glider, Academy, 5-1 Smiddy Lad, 7-1 Sunny Leith, 9-1 others.

3.30 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£3,558: 2m 4f) (5)

1 -651 DISCO DES MOTTES 3 (D,G,S) G Richards 6-11-12 (5ex) ... P Carberry
2 1F15 MONTRAVE 13 (CD,BF,F,G) P Monteith 6-11-10 ... A Dobbin
3 0841 SOLBA 11 (S,C,D,F,G,S) C Parker 8-11-6 (5ex) ... D Parker
4 1531 TWIN FALLS 10 (F,G,S) G Moore 6-11-4 (5ex) ... J Callaghan
5 /7-U PETER 27 (D,F) D Whelans 9-10-12 ... D Bentley

2-1 Disco Des Mottes, 11-4 Twin Falls, 3-1 Solba, 7-2 Montrave, 8-1 Peter.

4.00 AYRSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,339: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1 PFP- CANNY CHRONICLE 356P (6) Miss C Duncan 9-11-10 A Parker (7)
2 3U-22 DENIM BLUE 13P (6) Miss P Robson 5-11-10 Miss P Robson (5)
3 02- ELI PECKANPAH 331 Mrs J McGregor 7-11-10 A Robson (7)
4 R11- FROZEN STIFF 390P (6,S) A Brown 9-11-10 N Wilson (5)
5 000- PLANNING GAIN 325 (6) Mrs J Hollands 6-11-10 M Bradburne (7)
6 P3- WOODY DARE 370P P Needham 7-11-10 ... Chris Wilson (7)
7 - MOLLY GREY P Monteith 6-11-5 ... R Hale (5)

5-4 Frozen Stiff, 2-1 Denim Blue, 7-1 Eli Peckanpah, 10-1 Woody Dare, 12-1 Planning Gain, Molly Grey, 25-1 Canny Chronicle.

4.35 DOON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,993: 2m) (8)

1 0120 JERVAULX 14 (CD,BF,G) G Richards 6-11-11 ... P Carberry
2 0413 PHAR ECHO 14 (C,G) L Lungo 6-11-9 ... M Foster
3 1225 KEMO SABO 27 (B,D,G) C Parker 5-11-5 ... D Parker
4 P-01 SOLSGIRTH 24 (CD,S) J Barclay 6-10-7 ... B Storey
5 35P5 BILL'S PRIDE 11 P Monteith 6-10-5 ... C McCormack (7)
6 0035 MENALDI 21 P Cheesbrough 7-10-5 ... G Cahill
7 00-4 SKANE RIVER 112 (BF) G Richards 6-10-1 ... A Dobbin
8 000 ON THE OFF CHANGE 20 L Lungo 5-10-0 ... I Jardine (7)

7-2 Solsgirth, 4-1 Phar Echo, Skane River, 9-2 Jervaulx, 5-1 Kemo Sabo, 8-1 Menaldi, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Richards, 49 winners from 191 runners, 25.7%, A Whillans, 7 from 35, 20.0%, C Thornton 5 from 25, 20.0%, J J O'Neill 20 from 108, 18.5%, D Whillans 3 from 16, 18.8%.

JOCKEYS: A Dobbin, 32 winners from 161 rides, 19.9%, P Carberry, 4 from 21, 19.0%, P G Cahill, 11 from 71, 15.5%, B Storey, 26 from 179, 14.5%, M Moloney, 8 from 67, 11.9%, G Lee, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Exeter: 1.45 Spread The Word. Market Rasen: 3.20 What's Secreto. No Fiddling. Sandown Park: 3.10 Kendal Cavalier, 4.45 Texan Baby.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

1.40 Spitfire Bridge. 2.10 Mr Boston. 2.45 Fairly Sharp. 3.20 Moobakkr. 3.50 Golden Hello. 4.25 Dual Image. 4.55 Woodfield Vision.

Carl Evans: 2.10 Carly Brrin.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT PATCHES) SIS

1.40 FARMERS DAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,865: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 5-PP EUROLINK THE REBEL 10 (F) S Clark 5-12-0 Miss R Clark (7)
2 P544 JUST FOR A REASON 30 (G) R Jordan 5-11-2 ... J Railton
3 2P-0 BLOTOFT 4 S Bowring 5-11-7 ... R Garrity
4 3320 OAKSURY 13 Mrs L Siddall 5-10-13 ... T Siddall (7)
5 5006 COOL STEEL 10 Mrs J Ewart 5-10-13 ... E Callaghan (3)
6 3320 SUMMER VILLA 21 (B) K Mactaggart 5-10-13 ... K Gaule
7 P005 SPITFIRE BRIDGE 20 (BF) J McCourt 5-10-3 ... D Bridgwater
8 1 SUPREME ILLUSION 145 (D,S) John Berry 4-10-7 ... P Holley
9 PPPP WOODLANDS LAD TOO 30 P Pritchard 5-10-0 ... R Bellamy

11-4 Just For A Reason, 7-2 Supreme Illusion, 4-1 Oakbury, 5-1 Summer Villa, 7-1 Spitfire Bridge, 8-1 Blotoft, 16-1 others.

2.10 BEAUMONTCOTE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,329: 3m 1f) (5)

1 3-35 MATT REID 20 (CD,F,G,S) J Leigh 13-12-2 ... W Morgan (7)
2 F-11 MR BOSTON 6 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 12-12-10 ... S Swiers
3 6-11 CARLY SPRING SP (F,G,S) Mrs L Stubbs 12-12-9 C Mulhall (7)
4 0-04 FISH QUAY 25 (F,G,S) Mrs K Lamb 11-12-5 Miss S Lamb (7)
5 P5-2 R N COMMANDER 26P (G) J Denness 11-12-5 J R Cornwall (7)

4-6 Mr Boston, 5-1 Matt Reid, Fish Quay, 6-1 R N Commander, 7-1 Carly Spring.

2.45 WHEATLEY PACKAGING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,995: 2m 1f 110yd) (17)

1 0-21 SIX CLERKS 22 (G) J Ewart 11-0 ... F Leahy (3)
2 4-G6 FAIRLY SHARP 15 (B) J Fox 11-0 ... R Guest
3 0 AFRICAN SUN 45 W Storey 10-11 ... K Gaule
4 ELEKTOR PRINCE 287 A Harrison 10-11 ... D Bridgwater
5 GOLD OF ARABIA 27 C Thornton 10-11-0 ... E Callaghan (3)
6 UR JAMAICAN FLIGHT 13 Mrs S Bowring 10-11-0 ... J Railton
7 3P KHALKHOLAS 28 ... R Supple
8 P MARGUARD 17 ... R Garrity
9 P4 PRINCIPAL BOY 7 ... R Rourke
10 SATURDAS BOY ... P Niven
11 00 SHARP COMMAND 8 ... P Holley
12 SPENCER STALLONE 228P G Fox 11-0 ... R Massey (3)
13 0 TONTO 17 A Whillans 10-11 ... Derek Byrne
14 0 WAVEWEDGE 9 Mrs S Bowring 10-11 ... J Supple
15 2650 SELKIRATA 15 J Quinn 10-9 ... Michael Brennan (3)
16 45 DOWN THE VALLEY 258 W Storey 10-9 ... Vi Worthington
17 0 SUMMER PRINCESS 15 S Harris 10-9 ... Gary Lyons

9-4 Six Clerks, 5-1 Fairly Sharp, 6-1 Fair Sun, Elektor Prince, Marguard, 10-1 Selkirata, Gold Of Arabia, 12-1 others.

3.20 LINCOLNSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,478: 2m 5f 110yd) (12)

1 4FF3 THURSDAY NIGHT 52 (S) J Ferguson 6-11-0 ... P Niven
2 -003 DAWN MISSION 83 (F) T Easterby 5-11-7 ... R Garrity
3 1220 DESERT FORGE 8 (BF,F,G,S) J Ffrench 6-10-12 ... Gary Lyons
4 35-0 NEEDWOOD POPPY 20 (G) B Morgan 5-10-11 ... B Clifford
5 16-0 NO FIDDLING 20 (S,S) T Mitchell 6-10-10 ... D Bridgwater
6 3521 WHAT'S SECRETO 174 (V,D,F) H Alexander 5-10-8 ... J Railton
7 55PP LA FONTAINBLEAU 8 (F) C Broad 9-10-5 ... E Callaghan (3)
8 P430 SASSIVER 17 (C,D,F,G) P Hobbs 5-10-5 ... K Gaule
9 -144 CRAZY HORSE DANCER 182 (F,G,S) F Jordan 9-10-1 ... R Supple
10 PP4P MOOBAKKR 43 (CD,F,G,S) F Morgan 6-10-0 ... Derek Byrne
11 -530 HIGH PENHOWE 17 (D,F) J Quinn 9-10-0 ... Mr R Thornton (5)
12 6367 DOCTOR DUNKLIN 557 (D,F) Mrs V Ward 6-10-0 ... Michael Brennan (3)

3-1 Dawn Mission, 4-1 Thursday Night, 6-1 Desert Force, 7-1 No Fiddling, 8-1 Sassiver, 10-1 Crazy Horse Dancer, Needwood Poppy, 12-1 others.

3.50 WHEATLEY PACKAGING NOVICES CHASE (£3,678: 2m 4f) (10)

1 1F24 GOLDEN HELLO 34 (F,G,S) T Easterby 6-11-8 ... R Garrity
2 P/PP CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN 86 (G) R Brotherton 9-10-10 S Curran
3 00-P CLAVERHOUSE 17 (F,G) J Fitzgerald 8-10-10 ... P Niven
4 56P4 DREAM LEADER 15 (G) M Roberts 7-10-10 ... J Railton
5 -2UF GAELIC BLUE 43 Mrs S Smith 7-10-10 ... R Guest
6 FF-4 GORBY'S MYTH 265 (G) J Leigh 7-10-10 ... K Gaule
7 FP-F PLEASURE CRUISE 24 J Crosswell 7-10-10 ... N T Egan (7)
8 P- SEABRIGHT SAGA 368P M Chapman 7-10-10 ... W Worthington
9 40UU TOO YOUR FORELOCK 18 G Johnson Houghton 6-10-10 Michael Brennan (3)
10 20P- PARSONS BELLE 449 Mrs C Bowman 9-10-5 M Sharratt

4-5 Golden Hello, 7-2 Clavenhouse, 7-1 Gorby's Myth, Gaelic Blue, 8-1 others.

4.25 LINPAC GARAGES GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (£2,809: 2m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 1133 NETHERBY SAID 17 (CD,F,G) P Beaumont 7-12-0 R Supple
2 1413 DUAL IMAGE 13 (BF,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 10-11-12 R Garrity
3 1231 SUPER SHARP 125 (D,F,G) H Oliver 9-10-13 Jacqui Oliver
4 2P02 RECORD LOVER 45 (F) M Chapman 7-10-0 W Worthington
5 00P5 RUSTIC GENT 16 (F,S) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0 ... D Leahy

5-4 Dual Image, 7-4 Netherby Said, 7-2 Super Sharp, 14-1 Record Lover, 25-1 Rustic Gent.

4.55 FARMERS STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,308: 1m 5f 110yd) (18)

1 002/ BRANDON BRIDGE 690 D Geraghty 6-11-4 R Supple
2 000- HAPPY DAYS BILL 359 R Morgan 5-11-4 E Callaghan (3)
3 5 JUNIPER HILL 45 R Morgan 5-11-4 Mr R Thornton (5)
4 20 NOBLE TOM 8 R Collins 5-11-4 ... J Supple
5 - PERCY'S JOY T Easterby 5-11-4 ... R Garrity
6 0 STONESBY 48 G Moore 5-11-4 ... N Bentley
7 0 SURPRISE CITY 91 A J Wilson 6-11-4 ... D Leahy
8 - THE CHASE D Todd 6-11-4 ... M Newton (7)
9 4 THE GNOME 10 F Murphy 5-11-4 ... Michael Brennan (3)
10 00 TORO LOCO 97 I Williams 5-11-4 ... F Bogle (7)
11 0 WELSH ASSET 44 K Wingrove 6-11-4 ... Mr A Wintle (7)
12 3 WOODFIELD VISION Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4 ... P Niven
13 3 BESSIE BROWNE 87 G Hubbard 5-10-13 ... R Guest
14 - DELLEN WALKER J Wainwright 4-10-10 ... Derek Byrne
15 - KOTA J Wharton 4-10-10 ... R Massey (3)
16 - CLASSIC JENNY I Campbell 4-10-5 ... T G McLaughlin
17 - DINKY DORA J Crosswell 4-10-5 ... N T Egan (7)
18 - SWEEPAWAY M Roberts 4-10-5 ... J Railton

4-1 Percy's Joy, 5-1 Bessie Browne, 6-1 Woodfield Vision, Juniper Hill, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%, P Kelleway, 3 from 10, 30.0%, Mrs M Reveley, 22 from 91, 24.2%, F Murphy, 6 from 31, 19.4%, P Beaumont, 10 from 53, 18.9%, I Campbell, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: N Williamson, 17 winners from 67 rides, 25.4%, P Niven, 20 from 114, 17.5%, D Bridgwater, 8 from 47, 17.0%, D Byrne, 10 from 67, 14.9%, F Leahy, 6 from 43, 14.0%, E Callaghan, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

EXETER

THUNDERER

1.45 Font Romeu. 2.15 Avanti Express. 2.50 Carole's Crusader. 3.25 After The Fox. 3.55 Cool Gunner. 4.30 Shining Light. 5.00 Menesonic.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.55 COOL GUNNER.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.45 HMS EXETER NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,008: 2m 3f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 0-6 COMMUTER COUNTRY 31 C Barwell 6-11-2 ... P Henley (3) –
2 PP3/ DUNNICKS WELL 690 F Tucker 8-11-2 ... M Griffiths (7) –
3 -400 FOXES LAD 78 D Nicholson 6-11-2 ... R Johnson 82
4 00 LANGTONIAN 15 G Edwards 8-11-2 ... Mr T Dennis (7) 53
5 0P MILLCROFT REGATTA 18 R Ahier 5-11-2 ... A Thornton –
6 0/4 MYSTIC HILL 22 R Frost 6-11-2 ... J Frost 73
7 PP5- NEARLY ALL RIGHT 356P S Earle 6-11-2 ... C Maude –
8 0-P SUPREME CRUSADER 95 W McKenzie-Cole 6-11-2 E Byrne –
9 0413 FONT ROMEU 13 (BF,S) M Pipe 4-11-0 A P McCoy 89
10 5 SPREAD THE WORD 15 (V) L Cottrell 5-10-11 Mr L Jefford 90
11 AQUA STAR 268F A Dunn 4-10-8 ... Mr R Nuttall –
12 3 CRANDON BOULEVARD 15 Mrs J Pitman 4-10-8 J Osborne 94

7-4 Font Romeu, 3-1 Crandon Boulevard, 6-1 Fonter Lad, 8-1 Spread The Word, Mystic Hill, 14-1 Millcroft Regatta, Nearly All Right, 16-1 others.

2.15 HMS EXETER NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,008: 2m 3f 110yd) (11)

1 -221 AVANTI EXPRESS 18 (S) C Egerton 7-11-8 J Osborne 98
2 502F KYLAMI B A Hobbs 5-11-2 ... R Greene –
3 FP0 MR LOVELY 9 J Neville 6-11-2 ... T Dascombe (3) –
4 PPP RORY'M 9 (B) L Wenng 8-11-2 ... M Griffiths (7) –
5 -304 STEER POINT 22 R Frost 6-11-2 ... J Frost 61
6 2-PP TALK BACK 87 Miss H Knight 5-11-2 ... J F Titley 98
7 0 CUILLIN 38 R Smith 5-10-11 ... C Maude –
8 SOLAZZI 641F L Cottrell 5-10-11 ... D Bennett (5) –
9 0-50 SPIRIT LEVEL 20 J Payne 9-10-11 ... Mr R Payne –
10 32 GIVE AND TAKE 15 (BF) M Pipe 4-10-8 ... A P McCoy 96
11 00 RAPID LINER 22 R Baker 4-10-8 ... V Slattery –

6-4 Avanti Express, 4-1 Give And Take, 5-1 Talk Back, 12-1 Spirit Level, Steer Point, 14-1 Pylaria, 16-1 others.

2.50 DIAMOND EDGE NOVICES CHASE (£3,193: 2m 7f 110yd) (11)

1 F32F PLEASURE SHARED 14 (D,BF,G,S) P Hobbs 9-11-8 G Tormey 99
2 1131 CAROLE'S CRUSADER 20 (G) D Gandolfo 6-11-3 G Bradley 93
3 44F1 STORMY SUNSET 43 (F,S) W Dennis 10-11-3 Mr T Dennis (7) 51
4 /4-F BEAR CLAW 10 (B,S) O Sherwood 8-11-2 ... J Osborne 91
5 P0PF DEXTRA 7 S Earle 7-11-2 ... S McNeill –
6 0-33 INDIAN DELIGHT 9 M Pipe 7-11-2 ... C Maude 62
7 64-F MALWOOD CASTLE 4 (G) R Ahier 7-11-2 ... A Thornton –
8 -F0P OATS N BARLEY 34 (G) P Rodford 8-11-2 ... S Burrough –
9 0600 RATHREAL 22 M Heaton-Ellis 6-11-2 ... B Powell –
10 5-20 SECRET BID 37 (BF,F) R Ahier 7-11-2 ... W McFarland 80
11 -F SILVER HILL 9 Mrs S Williams 7-10-11 ... R Greene –

6-4 Pleasure Shared, 2-1 Carole's Crusader, 4-1 Bear Claw, 14-1 Malwood Castle, 16-1 Indian Delight, Secret Bid, 20-1 Stormy Sunset, 25-1 others.

3.25 SITWELL ARMS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,981: 2m 2f) (11)

1 4005 CAWARRA BOY 10 (S) C James 9-11-10 ... Mr E James –
2 2533 AMBER SPARK 44 (BF) D Gandolfo 8-11-5 G Bradley 99
3 P-F0 TRAIL BOSS 118 Mrs H Knight 6-11-5 ... J F Titley –
4 21U5 BISHOPS CASTLE 35 (CD,F,G) R Frost 9-11-4 ... J Frost 85
5 332U SUPER RITCHART 10 (G,S) B Pulling 9-11-1 ... T Jenks 90
6 P224 AFTER THE FOX 9 (BF,F,G) N Hawke 10-10-11 Mr J Tizzard (7) 96
7 30P0 COLETTE'S CHOICE 22 (S) G Ham 8-10-1 ... S Burrough 84
8 -P50 CHILI HEIGHTS 50 (B) K Bishop 7-10-0 ... G Tormey –
9 0026 INDIAN TEMPLE 30 K Bishop 6-10-0 ... R Greene –
10 -P66 ALPINE SONG 18 (S) Miss V Stephens 12-10-0 Miss V Stephens –
11 -P0P GEMINI MIST 22 Mrs P Duffield 6-10-0 ... A Procter –

9-4 Amber Spark, 5-1 Trail Boss, 6-1 Bishops Castle, 7-1 Cawarra Boy, Super Ritchart, 8-1 After The Fox, 10-1 Indian Temple, 14-1 others.

3.55 BRITISH RACING CENTRE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,775: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 -P06 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 20 (S) R Frost 8-11-10 ... J Frost 83
2 3-16 TROUVAILLE 23 (F) A Turnell 6-11-2 ... L Harvey 85
3 PP/5 THE BARGEMAN 42 D Gandolfo 9-11-1 ... D Fortt (3) 89
4 2242 DEVON PEASANT 22 L Cottrell 5-11-1 ... Mr L Jefford 85
5 1-15 FRIENDLY HOUSE 35 (BF,S) M Pipe 8-11-0 A P McCoy 89
6 61U4 COOL GUNNER 28 (C,S) J King 7-10-4 ... C Maude 89

11-4 Devon Peasant, 7-2 Trouvaille, 4-1 Cool Gunner, 9-2 Friendly House, 5-1 The Bargeman, 8-1 Pennymoor Prince.

4.30 WEATHERBYS BULLETIN MAGAZINE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,835: 2m 3f 110yd) (4)

1 1215 SHINING LIGHT 34 (BF,F,G,S) D Nicholson 8-12-0 R Johnson. 93
2 1231 LANCE ARMSTRONG 10 (G) S McCourt 7-11-9 (6ex) D Fortt (3) 94
3 1P08 MAMMY'S CHOICE 7 (BF,S) R Ahier 7-10-9 ... J Frost 61
4 1422 MR PLAYFULL 9 (C,F,S) R Frost 7-10-5 ... J Frost 89

11-10 Lance Armstrong, 9-4 Shining Light, 9-2 Mr Playfull, 6-1 Mammy's Choice.

5.00 ENJOYMENT OF BEING AN OWNER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,453: 3m 2f) (16)

1 F102 SCOTBY 20 (S) R Buckler 7-11-8 ... B Powell 84
2 340P ANJYMANN 18 (B,C,F) M Pipe 7-11-2 ... B Moore (7) 70
3 -031 KIND CLERIC 44 (G) P Hobbs 6-11-2 ... A P McCoy 95
4 4158 SPACEAGE GOLD 22 (D,F) J Old 8-11-2 ... G Upton 74
5 0-80 BANK AVENUE 52 Mrs J Pitman 6-10-10 ... R Farrant –
6 6040 COOLE CHERRY 27 C Barwell 7-10-10 ... R Johnson 74
7 P0PP DECEIT THE SECOND 25 P Rodford 5-10-10 ... S Burrough –
8 24-0 FLASHMAN 25 B Llewellyn 7-10-10 ... Mr J L Llewellyn 62
9 0/ HAN LINE 1066 M Coombe 9-10-10 ... Mr R Nuttall –
10 -634 LOGICAL STEP 14 D Gandolfo 7-10-10 ... G Bradley 77
11 4235 MENESONIC 20 R Ahier 7-10-10 ... P Henley (3) 99
12 P6SP MU-TAORI, 15 R Bakes 5-10-10 ... V Slattery –
13 POLLERMAN J King 7-10-10 ... C Maude –
14 520F BLAZING MIRACLE 18 (BF) Mr R Henderson 5-10-5 D Salter (5) 63
15 5/P0 GINGER MAID 79 M Pipe 9-10-5 ... G Supple (5) –
16 P0P SULA'S DREAM 25 G Ham 8-10-5 ... R Greene –

7-4 Kind Cleric, 7-2 Scotby, 6-1 Logical Step, 7-1 Menesonic, 8-1 Spaceage Gold, 10-1 Blazing Miracle, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss H Knight, 31 winners from 93 runners, 33.3%, M Pipe, 73 from 283, 25.8%, C James, 5 from 20, 25.0%, D Sherwood, 5 from 20, 25.0%, A Dunn, 6 from 27, 22.2%, P Hobbs, 24 from 125, 19.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 20 winners from 80 rides, 25.0%, J Titley, 8 from 32, 25.0%, A P McCoy, 17 from 95, 17.9%, L Harvey, 9 from 64, 14.1%, C Maude, 8 from 71, 11.3%, J Frost, 14 from 126, 11.1%.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Otto E Mezzo
2.35 Eulogy
3.10 Act The Wag
3.45 Emerald Statement
4.15 Brackenfield
4.45 MIRADOR (nap)

Carl Evans: 4.15 Brackenfield.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 WORCESTER PARK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,885: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

101 111P60 SHAHRANI 30 (D,F,G) (A Heitzman) M Pipe 5-11-13 ... Jamie Evans 90
102 42-12 REGAL PURSUIT 105 (BF,F) (L Tracey) N Henderson 6-11-11 P Maher (7) 91
103 01 OTTO E MEZZO 14 (D,G) (J Cook) M Pelgiaw 5-11-8 ... R Dunwoody 90
104 4-303 JAKES JUSTICE 44 (D Evans) J Gifford 6-11-1 ... P Hide 84
105 0-66201 MUSEUM 16 (S) (R Barber) P Winkworth 6-10-10 X Aizpuru (7) 96
106 034 WHISPERING DAWN 8F (W Pennycroft) C Brooks 4-10-2 D Gallagher 89
107 1-0030P SIR DANTE 15 (F) (P Wilby) R Fowe 6-10-0 D O'Sullivan 95
108 56P/4- PREMIER LEAGUE 17F (Hankinder Partners) J Long 7-10-0 Leesa Long –

Long handicap: Sir Dante 9-13, Premier League 9-6.

BETTING: Evens Regal Pursuit, 9-2 Jakes Justice, 5-1 Museum, 6-1 Shahrani, 7-1 Otto E Mezzo, 10-1 Whispering Dawn, 25-1 others.

1996: AMAZE 7-11-6 E Murphy (9-1) Lady Hermes 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHAHRANI 4th of 10 to Flying Fiddles in conditional handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm). REGAL PURSUIT beat Wakeel 10l in maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. OTTO E MEZZO beat Pinkerton's Pal 2¼l in novice hurdle at Southwell (2m, good). JAKES JUSTICE about 2¼l 3rd to Gionara in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft) Nov 96. MUSEUM beat Dissolve 11l in novice handicap hurdle at Folkestone (3m 1f 110yd, heavy). WHISPERING DAWN 15¾l 3rd of 19 to Brambles 'Way in claiming novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. Selection: MUSEUM

2.35 ANITE SYSTEMS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,518: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

201 3-33002 EULOGY 21 (N Cooper) R Rowe 7-11-12 ... L Aspell (3) 89
202 1-1031 FUNCHEON GALE 102 (G,S) (Kings Of The Road) R Curtis 10-10-13 D Morris 96
203 P52-40P PARLIAMENTARIAN 44 (J Wates) T Casey 8-10-0 ... J A McCarthy 95
204 00P/PUS ONEOFUS 18 (F) (R Letby) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0 ... M Richards –
205 06/03P4 EKEUS 9 (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 7-10-0 ... J Culloty 95
206 P0/3-PPP LITTLE ROWLEY 32 (J Judd) Mrs L Richards 8-10-0 C Llewellyn –
207 0-P4P40 VICTORY GATE 21 (V,G) (Mrs P Dando) Mrs L Jewell 12-10-0 Chris Webb (5) 68

Long handicap: Oneofus 9-1, Ekeus 8-6, Little Rowley 8-6, Victory Gate 8-6.

BETTING: Evens Funcheon Gale, 5-4 Eulogy, 12-1 Parliamentarian, 16-1 Ekeus, 25-1 Oneofus, 33-1 others.

1996: SMILING CHIEF 8-10-2 T Dascombe (11-2) R Hodges 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

EULOGY 21 2nd of 7 to Arfer Mole in novice chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good). FUNCHEON GALE beat Rhoman Fun 1¼l in 7-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good). PARLIAMENTARIAN pulled up to Sophie May in 14-runner novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with VICTORY GATE (14lb worse off) pulled up and ONEOFUS (16lb worse off) pulled up. ONEOFUS slipped up after 12th to Furry Fox in novice handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft). EKEUS 30l 4th of 14 to Foxtrot Romeo in novice chase at Taunton (3m, good to soft). VICTORY GATE 30l 4th of 12 to Black Church in handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: FUNCHEON GALE

3.10 HORSE AND HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP (Amateurs: £4,879: 3m 110yd) (10 runners)

301 52-3311 ACT THE WAG 11 (D,F,G) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 8-12-8 Capt A Ogden (7) 98
302 F31P02 DUHALLOW LODGE 22 (D,F,G,S) C Barwell 10-12-3 Capt D Alers-Hankey (7) 99
303 31/11 CARDINAL RICHELIEU 26P (F,S) (C Spurborg) C Spurborg 10-11-12 S Spurborg (7) –
304 UP44- GUNNER STREAM 305P (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Sims) A Sims 13-11-12 A Wood (7) –
305 02450R KCANTELYA 32 (V,G,S) J Mullins 8-11-12 Lt-Col R Webb-Bowen (7) 70
306 522P-02 JULTARA 38 (S) (A Elliot) I Williams 8-11-12 Major G Wheeler (7) 90
307 152404 KENDAL CAVALIER 7 (V,S) G Balding 7-11-12 Capt C Ward Thomas (7) 81
308 163/655 MAXIOUM EXPRESS 85 (S) (G Balding) G Balding 9-11-12 Major O Elwood (7) –
309 4-P VANCOUVER LAD 46 (Mrs A Sims) W G M Turner 8-11-12 Gunner S Sivewright (7) –
310 R6PU6- TODDLING INN 20P (A Pearn) R Symonds 10-11-7 Captain C Farr (7) –

BETTING: 5-4 Act The Wag, 5-2 Cardinal Richelieu, 6-1 Duhallow Lodge, 8-1 Jultara, Kendal Cavalier, 20-1 others.

1996: NORMAN CONQUEROR 11-12-0 Major D Ellwood (3-1) T Thomson Jones 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

ACT THE WAG beat Stoney Burke 2¼l in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good). DUHALLOW LODGE 4l 2nd to Mr Pickpocket in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). CARDINAL RICHELIEU beat River Melody 1l in point to point at Cotleigh (3m, good to firm). JULTARA 1l 2nd to Flimsy Truth in novice chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to firm). KENDAL CAVALIER 18¼l 4th to Top Javalin in novice handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft). MAXIOUM EXPRESS 25¾l 5th to Call Me Rave in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). Selection: ACT THE WAG (nap

MOTOR RACING

Old rivals and new faces, but Williams still team to beat

OLIVER HOLT



They say it is going to be a fine season, this year ahead in Formula One, more evenly contested, perhaps, with more elements of the unexpected. Yesterday, before the cars had even taken to the track, it got off to the best of all possible starts. Sentimentality, humour and an oddly touching *rapprochement* between old enemies, the first press conference here at Albert Park had it all.

It started with Michael Schumacher, that cold-blooded racing machine, talking about the recent birth of his first child, a baby daughter called Gina Maria, in terms so candid and open that the shield of invulnerability that always appears to cloak him seemed to be melting away in front of our eyes.

"Being there when the little one came," he said, "was the best moment of all the experiences I have had in my life. So many people try to explain what it will feel like to be a father, but you understand nothing until the moment when you become a father yourself. In the hospital, all the sisters were trying to explain things to me about the way to hold her and showing me how to do things with her, but I just wanted to hold her myself. It is an amazing thing which you do not expect will happen to you and you feel it so strongly."

Alongside him on the platform, Damon Hill smiled at the mellowing of his great adversary. He laughed when Schumacher was asked if he felt sorry for Hill now that the new world champion is about to be consigned to the role of a bit-part player in the fight for his title.

The Englishman offered Schumacher a handkerchief to wipe away the tears the question implied, but Schumacher had already thought of a solution to the dissolution of their three-year rivalry before the opening practice sessions of the season today. "I have organised myself a picture to put on the steering wheel," he said.

Then someone took a leap of faith and asked Schumacher if, perhaps, he and Hill might even become friends. "How can we become friends in a world like this?" Schumacher said. "Where people ask us questions all the time and when things are blown up between us. Let's turn it around and put it this way. We are not enemies any more."

Before they descended from the stage, Hill signed his part of the treaty, too, rationalising away the enmity that used to exist by comparing them to two boxers going into a ring, having to motivate themselves *to hurt the other*.

"A rival is anyone who is there in competition with you," Hill said, "and if there is just one guy between you and what you have been trying to achieve, the rivalry is distilled into one person. It is not a personal thing. It is just born out of the intensity of the desire to win."

Outside, in the sunshine of the Australian autumn, other things had changed, too, since *last season. The name* "Prost" was written above one of the garage doors to signal the dawn of the Frenchman's new team and the end of Ligier. "Stewart" made its first appearance, too.

At McLaren-Mercedes, gleaming silver cars, designed to evoke the spirit of the old Mercedes "Silver Arrows", sat proudly on their stands, the traditional red and white livery of the Marlboro dominated colour scheme that decorated the cars of Ayrton Senna, a thing of the past.

Outside the Williams camp, German journalists mingled with the English and the Canadians, keen to establish themselves with Heinz-Harald Frentzen's new team and, further up the pit lane, the Japanese tyre company, Bridgestone, put the final touches to their preparations to equip five teams and challenge the monopoly of Goodyear. In wet races, in particular, their excellence is expected to cause some surprising results.

If some things change in Formula One, some things remain the same. Jacques Villeneuve, the new Williams team leader, has inherited the mantle of favourite that has been thrust on his predecessors so often throughout this decade, and *did* not attempt to deny that he was the man to beat. With all Williams' problems — their ongoing prosecution for the manslaughter of Senna, the loss of their brilliant designer, Adrian Newey, and the furore surrounding their sacking of Hill — the chasing pack may get closer to them this year, but it is unlikely that they will get close enough.

Villeneuve topped most of the times in pre-season testing and has even hinted that the car was not even running to its full potential. "I think Williams is the favourite," he said, "and the fact that I have been with the team a year should benefit me the most. As a driver, you always think you are the best and if you do not believe that, how can you expect a team and their sponsors to believe it when they are thinking of signing you?"

Since it became evident that Hill would be taken out of the championship equation because of his move to Arrows, most have assumed that the race for the title this year would be a straight fight between Villeneuve and Schumacher. Yesterday, though, the German added more weight to the theory that others might be involved, too.

Ferrari, searching for their first drivers' championship for 18 years, have not made the advances they had hoped for during the winter and, even though Schumacher said he hoped to be fighting for the title by the end of the year, may find themselves behind not just Williams, but also Benetton and McLaren when the grid for the race on Sunday is decided tomorrow.

Both Hill and Nigel Mansell, the former British world champion, have suggested Berger, the oldest driver in grand prix racing this year, as a surprise contender for the title. His team-mate, Jean Alesi, and the McLaren drivers, David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen, may also win races.

Farther down the grid, there is a refreshing wealth of talented young drivers clamouring for success, a healthy alternative to the sponsor-rich dross that often occupies places in the middling teams. Both Giancarlo Fisichella, at Jordan, and Jan Magnussen, at Stewart, could be world champions of the future.

Yesterday, though, belonged to the world champions of the past, to the memories of the great rivalry between Hill and Schumacher, to happy endings on the eve of new beginnings.

DAVID GRAY



Villeneuve, the championship favourite, checks his Williams car yesterday

DRIVERS AND TEAMS

No	Driver	Team	Ranking/pts
1	Damon Hill (GB)	Danka Arrows Yamaha	1, 97
2	Pedro Diniz (Br)	Danka Arrows Yamaha	15, 2
3	Jacques Villeneuve (Can)	Rothmans Williams Renault	2, 78
4	Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Ger)	Rothmans Williams Renault	12, 7
5	Michael Schumacher (Ger)	Ferrari Marlboro	3, 59
6	Eddie Irvine (GB)	Ferrari Marlboro	10, 11
7	Jean Alesi (Fr)	Mild Seven Benetton Renault	4, 47
8	Gerhard Berger (Austria)	Mild Seven Benetton Renault	6, 21
9	Mika Hakkinen (Fin)	West McLaren Mercedes	5, 31
10	David Coulthard (GB)	West McLaren Mercedes	7, 18
11	Ralf Schumacher (Ger)	B&H Total Jordan Peugeot	—
12	Giancarlo Fisichella (It)	B&H Total Jordan Peugeot	—
14	Olivier Panis (Fr)	Ligier Gauloises	9, 13
15	Shinji Nakano (Japan)	Ligier Gauloises	—
16	Johnny Herbert (GB)	Red Bull Sauber Petronas	14, 4
17	Nicola Larini (It)	Red Bull Sauber Petronas	—
18	Jos Verstappen (Holl)	Tyrrell	16, 1
19	Mika Salo (Fin)	Tyrrell	13, 5
20	Ukyo Katayama (Japan)	Minardi	—
21	Jarno Trulli (It)	Minardi	—
22	Rubens Barrichello (Br)	Stewart Ford	8, 14
23	Jan Magnussen (Den)	Stewart Ford	—
24	Ricardo Rosset (Br)	Mastercard Lola	—
25	Vincenzo Sospiri (It)	Mastercard Lola	—

☐ *Rankings refer to last season's drivers' standings. Martin Brundle (11, 8) is not racing*

March 9: Australia (Melbourne)
March 30: Brazil (Interlagos)
April 13: Argentina (Buenos Aires)
April 27: San Marino (Imola)
May 11: Monaco (Monte Carlo)
May 25: Spain (Barcelona)
June 15: Canada (Montreal)
June 29: France (Magny Cours)
July 13: Britain (Silverstone)
July 27: Germany (Hockenheim)
August 10: Hungary (Hungaroring)
August 24: Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps)
September 7: Italy (Monza)
September 21: Austria (A-1 Ring)
September 28: Luxembourg (Nurburgring)
October 12: Japan (Suzuka)
October 26: Portugal (Estoril)

SPORT IN BRIEF

London University to lead flotilla

MORE than 2,000 competitors are racing in the 57th Women's Eights Head on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). London University, who have beaten the Oxford and Cambridge women's boat race crews in the past fortnight and who have six of their crew on trial for Great Britain, will lead off the 242-crew flotilla from Mortlake to Putney. Mike Spracklen, in his new post as national women's coach, is, unlike his predecessor, Bill Mason, is allowing squad members to race in their club crews.

Apart from London University, squad members are found in the Tideway Scullers crew, starting third, and notably the Thames crew, starting fourth, which includes five members of the women's team at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Kirsten bowing out

CRICKET: Peter Kirsten, the former South Africa Test batsman, will make his final first-class appearance in the game between Border and the touring Australians which starts today. Kirsten, 41, has enjoyed a career spanning 25 years, some of it spent with Derbyshire, for whom he made 228 against Somerset in 1981. He exceeded that score by scoring 271 for Border against Northern Transvaal in 1994 to become the first South African batsman to score eight double centuries. He has a career-average of 44.63 and has made 57 three-figure scores.

Wales date for Harvey

RUGBY UNION: Ben Harvey, who has helped Brunel University College to the final of the British Universities championship, will play at scrum half for England against Wales in a student international at Pontypridd on March 14.

ENGLAND STUDENTS: J Fabian (Exeter), B Johnson (RMC Shrivenham), F Waters (Bristol), M Denney (Bristol), M Singer (Cambridge); M Jones (Aston), B Harvey (Brunel UC) M Long (Northumbria), J Diddin (Exeter), A Reuben (Bristol), T Earnshaw (Cambridge), C Webb (UWIC), M Mills (Sheffield, Hallam), K Yates (Bradford), R Beattie (Northumbria).

McColgan chases record

ATHLETICS: Liz McColgan will attempt a record-breaking fourth victory in the BUPA Great North Run on September 14. McColgan, winner of her first title in 1992 when the event incorporated the world half-marathon championship and again for the past two years, is out to improve on the record of Liza Ondieki. The Australian's three victories in the 1980s were not in successive years and McColgan is convinced she can complete a hat-trick.

Banbury warm-up

LACROSSE: The England squad for the world championships in Japan next month will take part in an international tournament at Banbury this weekend, when five of those who narrowly missed selection — Rachena Shetty, Caroline Cade, Nicky Farman, Emily Ormerod and Vicky Penn — will try to make a point when they play in a President's team, including a number of former internationals, against England on Sunday.

Lincoln make progress

ROWING: There was little movement by the leading crews in the men's and women's top divisions on the second day of Oxford University Torpids on the Isis yesterday. The first six crews in the men's first division rode over. Lincoln and Oriel II were the only colleges to progress. Christ Church have dropped four places over the two days, as have Pembroke, who were bumped by University and Lady Margaret Hall in the women's first division.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand illustrates another point in slam bidding. It was played in the Macallan Camrose international match between Scotland and England, in December last year.



	♠AK94 ♥Q654 ♦K ♣Q965	
♠875 ♥AKJ1098 ♦AQ85 ♣—		
	♠Q1063 ♥732 ♦1062 ♣K4	

Senior	Sheehan
1 C	1 H
2 H	3 D
4 H	Pass

After both defenders followed to a round of trumps, I laid the hand down at trick three, sheepishly claiming thirteen tricks.

There are some instructive points in the auction. The first is whether I should force with Two Hearts over the opening bid of One Club. It often eases the auction to force, but here I was planning to bid diamonds later in a natural sense, to find out more about the hand. That is not possible after starting with Two Hearts — the modern style is that you don't force with a two-suiter (unless one of the suits has been opened by your partner). Thus after a force any subsequent diamond bid would be a cue-bid.

My Three Diamonds over Senior's raise to Two Hearts was, in the first instance, a 'trial' bid. That is, it showed length in diamonds and asked West to re-evaluate his hand for game purposes.

West's hand became strong when he discovered I had a diamond suit, and so he jumped to game. But what he should have done was bid Three Spades on the way there. As that already commits East-West to Four Hearts, it is a cue-bid. Sometimes it is wrong to make these bids, as it helps the opposition find the best defence against a doubtful game. But here, Senior's hand was so powerful that I think he could have afforded it. As it was, I couldn't bid over Four Hearts — after all, reverse West's black suits and Five Hearts may go down.

If Senior had bid Three Spades, we might have reached Seven Hearts, e.g.

West	East
1 C	1 H
2 H	3 D
3 S (1)	4 C (1)
4 D (1)	5 C (1)
5 S (1)	7 H

All bids marked (1) are cue-bids. After Five Spades East can tell that West has ace-king of spades and king of diamonds, and provided West has at least eight cards in hearts and clubs East can see that there will be no spade loser. Fanciful I suppose, but at any rate we would have bid Six Hearts.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Lords v Commons

The annual match between the House of Lords and the House of Commons held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand resulted in a clear victory, 7½-4½) for the Commons. Victories for the Lords were notched up by Lord Winston and Lord Rennell, while the Commons winners were Nigel Griffiths, Bob Ainsworth, Jeremy Hanley and Michael Stern.

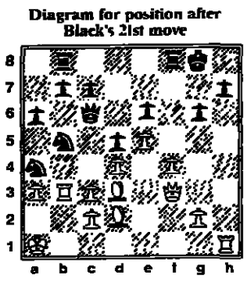
White: Lord Kilbracken
Black: Nigel Griffiths MP
Lords v Commons, March 1997

Queen's Pawn Game

1	d4	d5
2	f4	Nc6
3	Nf3	Bg4
4	e3	a6
5	Nc3	Nf6
6	Bd3	e6
7	h3	Bxf3
8	Qxf3	Bb4
9	a3	Bxc3+
10	bxc3	0-0
11	Bd2	g6
12	0-0-0	Qd6
13	Kb2	Rab8
14	e4	Na7
15	e5	Qb6+
16	Ka1	Nd7
17	Rb1	Qc6
18	h4	Nb5
19	Rb3	Nb6
20	h5	Na4
21	hxg6	fxg6
22	Qh3	Qd7
23	Bxg6	hxg6
24	Qh8+	Kf7
25	Rh7+	Ke8
26	Qg7	Qrg7
27	Rxg7	Rh8
28	Rxg6	Kf7
29	Rf6+	Ke7
30	c4	dxc4
31	Bb4+	Kd7
32	Rf7+	Kc8
33	d5+	Kxd5
34	Rd7+	Kc6

White resigns

Diagram for position after Black's 21st move



White missed a golden opportunity to win the game with a flourish on move 22. He could have played 22 Rxh7 Kxh7. 23 Qh5+ (Black's pawn is pinned) 23 . . . Kg8. 24 Qxg6+ Kh8. 25 Qh7 mate. Another opportunity beckoned on move 2h when 2h Qxf8+ Kxf8, 27 Rxd7 would have left White with a clear material advantage. As played, Black's king escaped from the bombardment and he emerged with a winning endgame.

The Spectator Trophy for the winning team was presented by Bruce Anderson to Michael Stern, captain of the winning side, while the new Killearn Trophy, in honour of Lord Killearn who led the Lords team for many years until his death last year, was presented jointly to Lord Winston and Nigel Griffiths who were the two top scorers in the match.

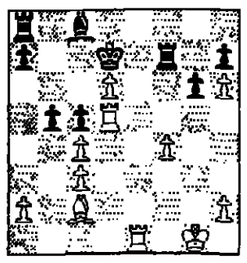
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Bouzi — Philippe, Belgium 1972. White is two pawns ahead and should win. However, his pawns are a little scattered and this could create problems. How did White bypass any difficulties with a quick combination?

Solution on page 46



WORD WATCH

By Philip Howard

CAMISARDS
a. French Protestants
b. Camisoles
c. A breed of duck

MABINOGION
a. An ogre
b. Celtic stories
c. The President of Iceland

DORNICK
a. A Doric column
b. Stout linen
c. A door-lock

QUIDDISTS
a. Tobacco chewers
b. American sectarians
c. Anti-Euro fanatics

Answers on page 46

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

THE TIMES

Prizes worth £40,000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Marlboro

There is still time to get in pole position for *The Times* and the Marlboro World Championship Team 1997 Formula One season which starts in Melbourne on Sunday. For the chance to win a share of our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One jackpot just choose a team of six racing drivers and six constructors from the four groups listed in the panel, below. Although the entry lines have closed for registration for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix there are plenty of points to be picked up over the season, and up to 600 points to be earned for each of six bonus races. And you can switch your fantasy team after each grand prix. Full details of the scoring system and the terms and conditions appeared in our 20-page Grand Prix supplement, published on February 24.

● You can also play Fantasy Formula One with *The Sunday Times* for the chance to win additional prizes.



THE PRIZES

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday will win a luxury three-day trip for two to San Marino. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

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Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone.

Follow the instructions on the entry line. You will be asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

MAKE 5 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 Damon Hill	07 Mika Hakkinen
02 Michael Schumacher	08 David Coulthard
03 Jacques Villeneuve	09 Rubens Barrichello
04 Eddie Irvine	10 Heinz-Harald Frentzen
05 Jean Alesi	11 Johnny Herbert
06 Gerhard Berger	12 Mika Salo

DRIVERS GROUP B

13 Olivier Panis	19 Giancarlo Fisichella
14 Jos Verstappen	20 Shinji Nakano
15 Ukyo Katayama	21 Nicola Larini
16 Pedro Diniz	22 Jarno Trulli
17 Ricardo Rosset	23 Jan Magnussen
18 Ralf Schumacher	24 Vincenzo Sospiri

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C	CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D
25 Williams	31 Arrows
26 Ferrari	32 Sauber
27 McLaren	33 Tyrrell
28 Benetton	34 Minardi
29 Jordan	35 Stewart
30 Ligier	36 Lola

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CHANGING TIMES

FOOTBALL

Injuries take gloss off welcome win by Middlesbrough

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

RELEGATION. The mere mention of the word sends a shiver down the spines of those entrenched in the lower reaches of the FA Carling Premiership. Squandered chances and lost points can play havoc with the nervous systems of the most robust player and the most resolute manager.

However, what the threat of a loss of status does produce often makes for engrossing viewing, as similarly afflicted clubs engage in the football equivalent of mortal combat. Those at the opposite end of the Premiership should be wary, too, as the stragglers suddenly discover reserves of strength. Thus the matches played on Wednesday night provided a mix to be savoured.

Middlesbrough, bottom of the Premiership pile, produced the most startling performance, brushing aside Derby County 6-1 at the Riverside Stadium in a dress rehearsal for the FA Cup quarter-final at the Baseball Ground tomorrow. It was only their third win in 21 league outings.

Though they remain rooted to the foot of the table, courtesy of the three points that the club had deducted for failing to turn up for a match against Blackburn Rovers in December, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, exhibited a rare optimistic air.

"It's only the start," he said, "and we've got to build on this. The attitude from the players was excellent and it would be nice if they could prove wrong a few of their critics."

Robson still has problems, though. Vladimir Kinder, Gianluca Festa, Emerson, Derek Whyte, Steve Vickers and Nigel Pearson are nursing injuries, with Kinder, Whyte and Emerson unlikely to have recovered in time for the Cup rematch.

Reports have also re-emerged that Fabrizio Ravanelli, who scored his third hat-trick of the season to take his tally to 24, is again being wooed by a host of Italian clubs, including Internazionale and AS Roma. Emerson is apparently attracting interest from Italy, too, with José Veiga, his agent, believed to have spoken to Lazio and Parma this week.

Southampton and Everton shared four goals at The Dell, with Southampton boldly retrieving a 2-0 half-time deficit, but Nottingham Forest's plight worsened with a 3-0 home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday. "We've scored only 24 times in 28 games and that's relegation stuff," Dave Bassett, the recently-appointed Forest general manager, said. "That's our problem and it's painful to see.

"We obviously need a striker but we could do with a defender and midfield player as well. At this stage of the season, though, it's not easy to buy. Who is going to give you or sell you players? Very few."

Southampton, trailing to the team that put seven goals past them in November, recovered through Slater's first goal for the club and Short's own-goal.

Leicester City surely ended any lingering doubts about their ability to retain top-flight status with a 1-0 victory against Aston Villa at Filbert Street, the defeat also denting Villa's hopes of claiming a Uefa Cup place.

"We're getting a bit closer to safety but we can't rest yet," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said. Steve Claridge, a second-half substitute, scored the decisive goal.

Blackburn Rovers also appear to be edging away from danger after a 1-1 draw against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. "We probably need two or three more wins before we can feel secure, but we're on the right track," Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker manager, said. Rovers have lost only three out of 17 league games since Parkes, who will be replaced by Roy Hodgson next season, took over from Ray Harford in October.

O'Neill in trouble for McGhee 'joke'

BY RICHARD HOBSON

MARTIN O'NEILL, the Leicester City manager, could face Football Association charges after appearing to encourage supporters to give Mark McGhee, his predecessor, a hostile reception if McGhee brings Wolverhampton Wanderers to Filbert Street next season.

McGhee left Leicester to become the manager at Molineux in December 1995 after just a year in charge and has acknowledged since that City supporters had reason to feel aggrieved at his departure. Wolves have improved markedly under his charge and lie second in the Nationwide League first division, well placed for promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

O'Neill's comments were made in the final paragraph of his programme notes for the game on Wednesday night against Aston Villa, whose own manager, Brian Little, preceded McGhee at Leicester.

Addressing supporters, O'Neill wrote: "We have enough to concern ourselves this season without venting any more anger on Brian and we should afford him the respect his achievements deserve. However, what you wish to do if and when Mark McGhee visits us with Wolves is entirely at your own discretion."

Yesterday afternoon, a spokesman for Wolves denied earlier suggestions that McGhee was taking legal advice over the article. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said that the FA would investigate if it received a complaint while O'Neill insisted that the remark was "tongue in cheek". The Leicestershire Constabulary does not intend to take any action.

It would be ironic if O'Neill found himself on a disrepute charge over something meant as a joke, having been let off for his verbal attack on Mike Reed, the referee who awarded the penalty that led to Leicester's exit from the FA Cup at Chelsea a week earlier. O'Neill described Reed's decision as "unbelievable" and "an absolute disgrace".

Skilful Carbone rising in stature

Brian Glanville on the little Italian forward making a big impression

PAUL BARKER



Carbone has proved a model professional since joining Sheffield Wednesday

Benito Carbone, Sheffield Wednesday's tiny Italian forward, has returned after a hernia operation in double-quick time. It is a boost on two fronts: two goals against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday lifted his team to seventh place in the FA Carling Premiership, and Carbone plays against Wimbledon on Sunday with an FA Cup semi-final place at stake. No wonder Wednesday see him as a model professional: an assiduous trainer, a fine example to younger players.

Carbone was 13 when he joined Torino, moving to Turin — where his sister lived — from Bagnara Calabra, deep in the south of Italy. Several other clubs, AC Milan and Juventus among them, had spotted his promise, but it was Torino who moved in first.

That was in 1984, but Carbone would not gain a regular place in Torino's Serie A team until 1993. He made three appearances in the 1988-89 season, five the next season in Serie B, and was then passed around the peninsula like a parcel.

A season each with Reggina, Casertana and Ascoli, all in Serie B, followed until Torino picked him up again. Too late. By then they were in financial chaos and soon had to sell him to Napoli, who, in turn, fell deep into debt and had to sell him to Internazionale.

He would go back to Naples tomorrow if he could, he said, but, adaptable to a degree, he seems content in Sheffield. David Pleat, Wednesday's resilient manager, thinks that it is just the place for him. "He really gives the impression he still wants to listen and learn," Pleat said. "He came over not as an elder statesman, more as a lively, bright guy looking for adventure, and Sheffield is possibly a good place for him to start, as opposed to a big city, where he'd be under the spotlight."

Fluent and charming, but sharply aware of those who have done him wrong, Carbone, 25, finds much to admire, and marvel at, in English football, but he deplores its defences. "I'd watched English football already on television," he said. "It's not dirty, it's very rugged. There are more tackles, but always on the ball. The players are not malicious, they are decisive. They never stop running ... pum, pum, pum! Incredible.

"Here they train very little. I don't know how they manage to run so much. Technically and tactically, the difference is in defence. The Italians are much better prepared defensively. In Italy, to win a game is very difficult."

Carbone, who prefers to play off the centre forward, has touch, flair, intelligence and a spirit of adventure. "Good technique," Pleat said, "prepared to try the audacious. Someone who is obviously willing to express himself and is begging me to allow him to express himself. He's got to be more goal-conscious and I think he can be." The admiration is reciprocated. "Up to now he hasn't made a single mistake," Carbone said of Pleat. "He is very intelligent: above all, tactically."

Carbone has scored surprisingly few goals, just 15 in his three seasons in Serie B, then three in Serie A for Torino and four for Napoli. Last season, with Inter, he scored just a couple. "I have always sacrificed myself for the team," he said. "I go out and get the ball on the wing. I played at Caserta. Campioli got 25 goals: Ascoli, Bierhoff got 22 goals: Torino, Silenzi got 22 goals: Inter, Branca got 19. I play more for the team than myself. It's in my character to produce more assists than goals."

He felt badly treated at Inter, where he was seldom allowed to play in his favourite position by Roy Hodgson, their English manager, and lost his place to Youri Djorkaeff. "I found myself out of the team," Carbone said, "and I thought it better to have a change of air, because those people don't deserve me."

He is delighted that Cesare Maldini has taken over as coach of the Italy national team. "I remember him with affection because I had a marvellous year with him," he said. "We won the European under-21 championship. I am sure he will win something. Why? Because he doesn't exclude class players from his teams.

"If he chose [Roberto] Baggio or [Gianfranco] Zola, they'd be left to play as they know how. It's very important that a player like Zola can go on the field and do what he wants. It's very important that players like me can play like that. Free in our heads to do what we have in our minds."

Midlands club is forced into drastic cutbacks

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE next three fixtures for Bromsgrove Rovers provide a timely lifeline for the Worcestershire club, whose season-long struggle in the Vauxhall Conference has been thrown into sharp relief by the revelation of financial problems so severe as to force Brian Kenning, the manager, to place his entire squad of contracted players on the transfer list.

Tomorrow Bromsgrove travel to Bath City, who are points below them at the foot of the table, with victory vital in their attempt to close the five-point gap with the teams above them, lying as they do in the third relegation position. Tomorrow week, Bromsgrove play host to the other team below them, Rushden and Diamonds.

In between, on Tuesday, they meet their local rivals, Kidderminster Harriers, at the Victoria Ground in the most important money-spinning fixture of their season. Last season, the match on Boxing Day attracted 4,398. The match at Kidderminster last Boxing Day drew more than 6,000.

Keith MacMaster, the chairman, expects the crowd to be 3,500 and his message to the townspeople is simple: "If you want a football club in Bromsgrove, come along and support us." A drastic cut in the playing budget and "a tightening up on expenditure in all directions" is in store for next season.

"It's been coming on since we joined the Conference five years ago," MacMaster said. "We've been fortunate enough in previous seasons to sell players like Scott Cooksey, Steve Taylor and Martin O'Connor to Football League clubs, which has been a big help to cashflow, but we haven't sold anybody for the past two years.

"With our situation in the league, gates have been plummeting as well. We've been averaging around 700 this season compared to 1,100 last season."

The only player to have attracted interest so far is Adie Smith, a 22-year-old utility player, for whom the club has turned down offers from Kidderminster and Kettering Town. As for Kenning, MacMaster said: "He understands the situation. As he said to me, he's a fighter not a quitter."

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 100 Toronto 94, Cleveland 86 Indiana 78; Chicago 111 San Antonio 69; Detroit 92 Minnesota 88; Portland 121 Phoenix 99; Utah 96 Dallas 85; Houston 90 Golden State 85; Sacramento 105 Denver 100.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester Riders 97 Newcastle Eagles 110; London Towers 94 Crystal Palace 61
EUROPEAN CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: Villeurbanne (Fr) 97 Estudiantes Madrid 74; Teamsystem Bologna 73 Seville 70

BILLIARDS

NORWICH: Strachan world matchplay championship. Third round: D Joshi (India) bt S Agrawal (India) 4-2; S Mullins (Ind) bt D Causier (Eng) 4-3; R Close (Eng) bt A Goenka (Ind) 4-2; N Patel (Ind) bt A Kuma (Ind) 4-3; R Chapman (Eng) bt J Murphy (Eng) 4-0; C Shutt (Eng) bt M Wildman (Eng) 4-0; B Bahaskar (Ind) bt R Williams (Eng) 4-3; P Gilchrist (Eng) bt B Dix (Eng) 4-0

BOWLS

YORK: EWIBA national championships: Triples: Final: Cambridge Chesterton (L Jarman) bt Egham (K Strutt) 20-17. Unbadged pairs: First round: L Metcalfe and D Freddi (Richardson's) bt A Meade and B Douglas (Moss Park) 34-7; J Arnaud and J McAuslan (Alhenley) bt E Hutter and P White (Essex County) 22-21 (after extra end). D Gibbons and C Clarke (Mansfield, North London) bt C Day and P Carroll (City of Ely) 22-15. A Burgess and C Cloke (Northavon) bt I Butler and C Neave (North Walsham) 29-26; P Pond and S Sullivan (Whitelknights) bt J Giles and A Cruttenden (Luton) 25-19. C and A Cowshall (Louth) bt A Millward and A Owen (Preston, Brighton) 30-5. A Knott and S Wilson (South Shields) bt D Smith and E Deadman (Dorrynge, Surrey) w/o. Christina and Cheryl Northall (Teignbridge) bt D Thomas and G Lloyd (Malvern Hills) 29-11.

BOXING

BIRMINGHAM: ABA national finals: Light-flyweight: Ian Napa (Crown and Manor) bt Frannie Norton (New Astley) pts. Fly: Micheal Hunter (Hartlepool) bt Nicky Bell (Brighton) rsc, 2nd rnd. Bantam: Stephen Oates (Repton) bt Levi Pattison (Hunslet) pts. Feather: Steven Bell (Louvaine) bt Michael Walsh (Portsmouth University) rsc, 3rd rnd. Light: Mark Hawthorne (Lowestoft) bt Roy Rutherford (Hall Green) pts. Welter: Francis Barrett (Sojan) bt Tim Smith (Handsworth) pts. Light-welter: Richard Halton (Sale West) bt Michael Hall (Darlington) pts. Light-middle: Chris Bessey (Army) bt Michael Jones (Gemini) pts. Middle: Ian Cooper (Hartlepool) bt James Twite (Triumph) pts. Light-heavy: Paul Rogers (Ken Hill) bt Mark Krence (St Michaels) disqualified. Heavy: Blue Stevens (Pinewood Star) bt Tony Oakley (Leigh Park) pts. Super-heavy: Audley Harrison (Repton) bt Nick Kendall (Apollo) rsc, 1st rnd

CYCLING

TOUR OF MURCIA: Second stage (190km, Murcia to Totana): 1, I G Camacho (Spi 3hrs 57min 22sec; 2, M Pantani (It), 3, J C Dominguez (Sp), 4, C M Moller (Den), 5, S Gonzalez (Sp) all same time, 6, V Aparicio (Spi at 1min 47sec. Leading overall positions: 1, Camacho 9hr 5min 35sec; 2, Pantani at 4sec, 3, Dominguez 8, 4, Moller 12, 5, Gonzalez same time; 6, Aparicio 1min 59sec

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Ajax 1 Atletico Madrid 1; Borussia Dortmund 3 Auxerre 1. Manchester United 4 FC Porto 0; Rosenborg 1 Juventus 1.
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea 1 Blackburn 1, Leicester 1 Aston Villa 0, Middlesbrough 6 Derby 1; Nottingham Forest 0 Sheffield Wednesday 3; Southampton 2 Everton 2
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Manchester City 1 Portsmouth 1; Stoke 3 Grimsby 1; West Bromwich Albion 4 Southend 0
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rath 2 Kilmarnock 1.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Alloa 3 Alloa 0.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 2 Alfreton 2
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Paget 2 Solihull Boro 1.
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third-round replay: St Leonards 0 Colwyn Bay 0 (aet).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth 0 Millwall 2, Charlton 1 Luton 1, Swindon 2 Bristol City 1; Ipswich 0 Tottenham 0 League Cup: Arsenal 1 Norwich 3, Oxford United 2 Bristol Rovers 0. Postponed: Portsmouth v Crystal Palace
PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham 2 Tranmere 5 First division: Blackpool 0 Preston 1; Huddersfield 1 Sheffield United 3, Notts County 1 Wolverhampton 0 Second division: Shrewsbury 0 Carlisle 1 Postponed: Burnley v Bradford. Third division: Bury 4 Scarborough 0; Chester 2 Darlington 2, Walsall 0 Scunthorpe 0 Postponed: Chesterfield v Rochdale
WHITBREAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 2 Furness 1.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Postponed: Mair Ka v Knowle.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston Fed 2 Consett 0, Wrekham 0 Guisborough 2
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Town Res 4 Hadleigh 1.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot Cables 1 Holker Old Boys 0, Rossendale 3 Atherton Collieries 1.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam 0 Arnold 2.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Whitehawk 0 Langney Sports 0 Postponed: Arundel v Selsey
FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Leeds 0 Tranmere 0
SPANISH LEAGUE: Rayo Vallecano 2 Sevilla 0.
ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Boca Juniors 1 Lanus 1; Espanol 2 San Lorenzo 3; Huracan 1 Huracan Comentes 1; Rosario Central 1 Estudiantes 0; Banfield 0 River Plate 2, Union 2 Ferro Carril Oeste 1; Gimnasia La Plata 1 Newell's 0; Independiente 0 Velez 3; Gimnasia Jujuy 1 Racing 2.

GOLF

AGADIR, Morocco: Moroccan Open: Early first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated). 67: S Allen (Aus) 68: A Coltart, B May (US), C Whitelaw (SA) 69: J-C Pinero (Sp), P Harrington, J Haeggman (Swe), D Hospital (Sp), A Labouc (Fr), D A Russell, C Rocca (It), W Westner (SA) 70: J Payne, N Fasth (Swe), B Davis, 71: A Forsbrand (Swe), T Jonnstone (Zim), S Luna (Sp), G Orr, R Burns, V Phillips, J Caceres (Arg), M James
AGADIR, Morocco: Sahara Cup four-ball stroleplay: Europe 1½ Africa 2½ (Europe names first. S Torrance (Scot) and R Russell (Scot) 69 lost to W Westner (SA) and C Whitelaw (SA) 68; P Broadhurst (Eng) and P Harrington (Ire) 66 bt Y El Hassani (Mor) and M Makroune (Mor) 70; A Coltart (Scot) and P-U Johansson (Swe) 71 lost to J Hawkes (SA) and B Pappas (SA) 69; M James (Eng) and C Rocca (It) 67 halved with R Wessels (SA) and T Johnstone (Zim) 67)

HOCKEY

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University 1 East Anglians 2.
MILTON KEYNES: British Aerospace under-16 schoolgirls championship: Queenswood (Hatfield) 4 Arnold (Blackpool) 2; Dame Alice Harpur 0 Henry Cort 0; Arnold 0 Gordano 1; Cort 0 Queenswood 1; Gordano 0 Harpur 0; Cort 1 Arnold 0; Queenswood 0 Gordano 4, Arnold 1 Harpur 0; Gordano 2 Cort 0; Harpur 0 Queenswood 1. Final positions: 1, Gordano 10; 2, Queenswood 9; 3, Cort

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 2 Calgary 0; Buffalo 4 Pittsburgh 2, Phoenix 3 Florida 0; Colorado 7 Montreal 3; New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 1; Toronto 4 Detroit 4 (OT); Dallas 3 St Louis 2, Vancouver 1 Chicago 1 (OT), Anaheim 4 Ottawa 1.
SUPERLEAGUE: Group A: Play-off: Newcastle Cobras 3 Manchester Storm 0.

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National schoolgirls' tournament: Parker Salver (seniors): Semi-finals: St George's, Harpenden 1 Moreton Hall, Oswestry 2; Downe House, Newbury 2 St Bartholomew's, Newbury 1. Final: Downe House 3 Moreton Hall 3 (trophy shared) Dodd Cup (juniors) Semi-finals: Cheltenham Ladies College 4 St Helen's, Northwood 0, Berkhamsted Collegiate 2 Alice Ottley 1 Final: Cheltenham Ladies 0 Berkhamsted 0 (trophy shared).

ROWING

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TORPIDS
MEN: First division: Lincoln bpd Christ Church; Oriel II bpd St Edmund Hall Today's starting order: Oriel, Pembroke, Magdalen, Brasenose, New College, University, Lincoln, Christ Church, Worcester. Oriel II, St Edmund Hall, Exeter Second division: Queen's bpd St Catherine's Trinity, Jesus bpd St Peter's, Osler-Green, Merton bpd Keble. Today's starting order: Wadham, Queens, St Catherine's, St John's, Balliol, Trinity, Jesus, St Peter's, Lady Margaret Hall, Osler-Green, Merton, Keble. Third division: St Anne's, Mansfield Pembroke II bpd St Hugh's, Oriel III, Corpus Christie bpd Balliol II Today's starting order: Hertford, Wolfson, Linacre, St Anne's, Mansfield, Pembroke II, St Hughes. Oriel III, Corpus Christie, New College II, Balliol II, University II Fourth division: Keble II, Magdalen II, Brasenose II bpd St Edmund Hall 2 Exeter II bpd Brasenose II, Lincoln II, Lady Margaret Hall II, bpd Somerville, Somerville bpd Worcester II, St John's II and Wolfson II bpd Wadham II Today's starting order: Keble II, Magdalen II, Exeter II, Brasenose II, St Edmond Hall II, Lincoln II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Somerville, Worcester II, St John's II, Wolfson II, Wadham II Fifth division: Jesus II, St Benet's Hall bpd Oriel IV; Hertford II bpd Queen's II; Osler Green II bpd University III; Merton II bpd Magdalen III Today's starting order: St Catherine's II, St Peter's II, St Anne's II, Jesus II, St Benet's, Oriel IV, Hertford II, Queen's II, Osler-Green II, University III, Regent's Park, Merton II Sixth division: Merton II, Wolfson III bpd Keble III, St Antony's bpd Lady Margaret Hall III, Balliol III, Corpus Christi II, Lincoln III bpd Oriel V, Trinity II bpd Lincoln III Today's starting order: Magdalen III, Wolfson III, Keble III, Linacre II, St Antony's, Lady Margaret Hall III, Balliol III, Corpus Christi II, Trinity II, Somerville II, Lincoln III, Oriel V Seventh division: Queen's III, Wadham III, St Catherine's III, St Anne's III, Merton III bpd Pembroke III, St Hugh's II bpd St Catherine's III, Mansfield II bpd Brasenose III, Merton IV, Hertford III bpd Corpus Christi III. Today's starting order: University IV, Queen's III, Wadham III, St Hugh's II, St Catherine's III, St Anne's III, Merton III, Pembroke III, Mansfield II, Brasenose III, Merton IV, Hertford III, Corpus Christi III Women: First division: Oriel bpd Somerville, University, Lady Margaret Hall bpd Pembroke, Trinity bpd Christ Church Today's starting order: Osler-Green, St Catherine's, New College, Wadham, Oriel, Somerville, St Hilda's, University, Lady Margaret Hall, Pembroke, Trinity, Christ Church. Second division: Lincoln bpd Brasenose, Wolfson bpd Hertford, Merton bpd Worcester, St Edmund Hall bpd Queen's, Keble bpd Exeter Today's starting order: Lincoln, Brasenose, Wolfson, Hertford, Merton, Worcester, St Edmund Hall, Queen's, Balliol, Jesus, Keble, Exeter Third division: Mansfield, Magdalen, St Hughes bpd Somerville II; Wadham II, Corpus Christie, Lady Margaret Hall II bpd Magdalen II; Wolfson II bpd Lady Margaret Hall II Today's starting order: St Anne's, Osler-Green II, St Peter's, Linacre, Mansfield, Magdalen, St Hugh's, Somerville II, Wadham II, Corpus Christie, Wolfson, Lady Margaret Hall II Fourth division: Wolfson II, Regents Park bpd Pembroke II, St Catherine's II bpd Regent's Park, Merton II, Lincoln II bpd St Edmund Hall II, St Antony's, Wolfson III bpd Lincoln II, St Hugh's II bpd Brasenose II Today's starting order: Magdalen II, St Catherine's II, Regent's Park, Pembroke II, Merton II, St Antony's, Hertford II, Wolfson III, Lincoln II, St Edmund Hall II, Christ Church II, St Hugh's II, Brasenose II

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Bramley 25 York 8.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Royal Navy 18 Cambridge University 24

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Sydney to Cape Town (positions at 13:50GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town) 1, Save the Children 5,480; 2, Global Teamwork 5,482, 3, Pause to Remember 5,488, 4, Group 4 5,490; 5, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,491; 6, Courtaulds Int 5,493; 7, Ocean Rover 5,495; 8, Motorola 5,496; 9, Nuclear Electric 5,498; 10, Commercial Union 5,499, 11, 3Com 5,502; 12, Concert 5,502; 13, Time & Tide 5,513; 14, Heath Insured # 5,514.

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Men's tournament: First round: M Stich (Ger) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 8-1; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-4. Second round: P Korda (Cz) bt J van Herck (Bel) 7-6, 6-2; R Furlan (It) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 7-5, 7-6
SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Men's tournament: First round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 0-6, 6-4, 6-1; Second round: B Black (Zim) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, R Reneberg (USA) bt H Gumy (Arg) 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; J Golmard (Fr) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, M Philippoussis (Aus) bt B Shelton (US) 6-4, 6-1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
Nationwide League
First division
Barnsley v Shelf Utd (7.45)
Third division
Cambridge Utd v Colchester (7.45)
FAI HARP LAGER SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-finals: Bohemians v St Patrick's Ath; Waterford v Drogheda (7.45)
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Eastleigh v Gosport
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Snickers under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: Longford Community, Maldx v Ardingly Coll, Sussex (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club match
Castleford v Wigan (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-off: Group A: Cardiff v Manchester (7.0).

GOLF: SPECTACULAR LOSS OF FORM DRIVING RYDER CUP CAPTAIN TO DESPAIR

Is sad Ballesteros heading for the cruellest cut of all?

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT



Ballesteros: back trouble

DOWN the years, thousands of golfers have wished they could play like Severiano Ballesteros. The sad truth is they now can. Ballesteros is playing like an amateur at present. He is a shadow of the man who has won three Open championships and the Masters twice.

He was dreadful in Dubai last week; his second round, an 84, the second highest of the day, contained nine bogeys and two double bogeys and he missed the cut by 13 strokes. In fact, he has been dreadful all year. His average finishing position in the three tournaments he has played is 135th.

The Moroccan Open started yesterday and it was at this event last year that Ballesteros reappeared after a six-month break from the game. He hit the ball well in practice but could not reproduce that form on the course. He still cannot. His back continues to worry him and he is in Germany at present, seeking help from the doctor who has helped José Maria Olazábal get back on his feet.

Adding to Ballesteros's unease is the fact that he seems to be at odds with almost everybody. His mood is as black as his hair. The dispute with the Ryder Cup committee as to how many selections he should have for his team rumbles on, with leading players endorsing his view that two selections are too few. The surest sign of his discontent is that he is publicly warning journalists that he will only talk about the Ryder Cup at certain times and occasions, which is hardly the demeanour expected of a captain.

Ballesteros was a sporting phenomenon when he was at his best and remains one at his worst. He has described himself as "hopeless". Last year players talked of the reverse pivot that was present in his swing. This year it is something else. "Seve says he does not feel comfortable at the top of the backswing," Olazábal said. "If you don't feel comfortable in that position, it is very difficult to strike the ball well."

At first glance, it is hard to see what is wrong. Ballesteros takes two practice swings and then moves behind the ball to look down the intended line of flight. A cough, a nervous pluck at his left hip with his left hand and he returns to the address position once again. At this moment he appears relaxed. Then his troubles begin. He strikes the ball and watches it soar away to where he did not intend it to, sighs and hands his club back to his caddie.

Events of recent weeks should give him hope. The possibility of his Europe team for the Ryder Cup in Spain not containing a Spaniard has receded. Miguel Angel Martin won a tournament in Australia and lies second in the points table, and Olazábal, whose career had been in doubt, finished joint twelfth in Dubai, suggesting that, as long as his health continues to improve, he should have little difficulty in qualifying for the match in September.

Perhaps these are sufficient reasons to encourage Ballesteros to abandon his idea of being a playing captain, which was born out of a desire to have a Spaniard in his team. Perhaps that will free his mind from his own bad play and enable him to relax and think positively once again.

Heaven knows, the game needs a Ballesteros on song. He has the capacity to turn a tournament into a festival. He is not doing so at present. We must wish that he has not lost his sublime gift for golf for ever.

Bright start by Lyle

SANDY LYLE, embarking on a run of nine successive tournaments in the United States, began his challenge for the Doral Open with a round of 67 in Miami yesterday.

He briefly held the lead before being overtaken by Greg Norman, the defending champion, and two Americans, Lee Rinker and Bob Tway. Lyle was more than happy with his form after extracting eight birdies from the Blue Monster course, which has been given a £3.5 million facelift.

Lyle, 39, has not discounted his chances of regaining his place in the European Ryder Cup team but admits he would probably have to win at least two tournaments on the USPGA Tour, or a major championship, to become one of the wild-card selections. He has only five appearances scheduled in Europe this season.

"My game is coming back and so is my confidence," Lyle said. "I have had a lot of troughs in my career but now I feel I am on an upswing."

Lyle was using a new set of Callaway clubs in place of the Mizunos he had used for 11 years, which were lost five weeks ago.

Russell well set after hole in one

DAVID A. RUSSELL, who hopes that his battle against chest cancer has now been won, holed in one at the 16th in the opening round of the Moroccan Open in Agadir yesterday.

It was the fourteenth hole in one of his career and helped him to a three-under-par 69, two shots off the lead after a mind-numbing journey lasting 51 hours from his home in Los Angeles.

Russell trails the leader, Stephen Allen, of Australia, and is one shot adrift of Bob May, of the United States, Clinton Whitelaw, of South Africa, and Andrew Coltart, of Scotland.

"I have had two rough years battling cancer but I stopped taking drugs to build up my immune system on January 15 and it has made all the difference. I feel much, much better," Russell said.

Russell, who has lived in California for the past two years, admitted he was very tired and jet lagged after his journey across the Atlantic.

Russell left Los Angeles on Monday afternoon, missed a connection to Morocco and had to travel the next day to Brussels. Then he missed another connection at Casablanca before finally making it to Agadir.

Allen, who is in his first year as a professional, is an Australian of Scottish parents and was taking part in only his second European Tour event. He played steadily with six birdies and only one bogey on his card.

Coltart, who is hoping to play well enough to force his way into the Ryder Cup team in September, had seven birdies but three bogeys.

May, had a sound round of five birdies and one bogey but has never finished higher than twelfth in a European Tour event. Sam Torrance had a bad day, struggling round in 74, two over par.

David Powell, athletics correspondent, previews the world indoor championships

Smith and Baulch aiming to cash in on new incentives

THE outside of the house was bright and fresh but the inside was beginning to look shabby. Then along came Primo Nebiolo with his decorators, papering the interior walls with money. Now the indoor world championships are a respectable companion for the outdoor version. When the indoor championships were last staged, two years ago in Barcelona, only one world record was set, and that was in an under-developed event, the women's triple jump. While the field events were of a good standard, the track racing was, at best, patchy.

The absence of Michael Johnson and Svetlana Masterkova, the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) male and female athletes of 1996, from the sixth indoor championships, taking place in Paris over the next three days, is disappointing but not worth dwelling on. The list of luminaries that are taking part is too long to pack into one sentence here.

These are the first IAAF world championships to pay prize-money: $50,000 (about £31,000) to winners, $50,000 to world record breakers, $60,000 to victorious relay teams. The pay compares favourably with awards for the outdoor world championships in Athens this summer, where winners will receive $60,000, plus $100,000 for a world record.

The currency of conversation remains medals, not dollars, however, and finding an athlete prepared to say that he or she is here for the money is as unlikely as being able to persuade Nebiolo, the IAAF president, to remove the second word from his governing body's name. Steve Smith, one of two Great Britain athletes going into the championships as a favourite, almost admitted it yesterday, but stopped short.

Smith, the Olympic high jump bronze medal-winner, said: "$50,000 would go a long way to securing my future and that is how I thought of it at the start of the season. But now what excites me is taking the title."

If successful, Smith would at last deliver on the potential he showed in 1992 when, after a memorable duel with Tim Forsyth, of Australia, he won the world junior title. He has yet to win a senior one, but has a silver or bronze medal from each of the four main outdoor championships.

"I have taken enough medals, there has got to be a time when I start taking titles," he



Smith: favourite

said yesterday. He is in superb form and would be entering the competition as world No 1 for the year — the only man to clear 2.34 metres, not once but twice — had Forsyth, his old foe, not sneaked in a 2.36 jump in the last few days.

When Smith, displaying confidence bordering on arrogance, was asked how he would spend the $50,000, Dalton Grant, his team-mate, sparked to life. "Hey, hey," he said, insulted at the suggestion he himself might not win. Grant, too, has been jumping well, twice over 2.33 metres, and has the advantage of knowing that, on the last occasion of an international championship in the Palais Omnisports, it was he who won.

Up against the British pair is Charles Austin, of the United States, one of several Olympic champions on parade. But, in the absence of Johnson and Johnson (Michael and Allen, that is), Britain's prospects of striking gold have been enhanced.

It is not Colin Jackson, the 60 metre hurdles world record holder, who is Britain's other gold medal favourite, but Jamie Baulch, the 400 metre runner he coaches. Unbeaten in six indoor finals at the two-lap distance this season, and having set a British record of 45.39sec, Baulch acknowledged yesterday that his main opposition was likely to come from the Americans, even though Darnell Hall, the world champion, did not make the team.

Instead Baulch faces Derek Mills and Dion Minor, neither of whom have broken 46sec this season. Allen Johnson, Jackson's successor as the world's pre-eminent sprint hurdler, failed to qualify from the United States trials, but Reggie Torian, another American, has popped up with a fast time, and Anier Garcia, from Cuba, is the athlete in form.

Ashia Hansen is likely to find Inna Lasovskaya, from Russia, dominant in the triple jump but the Briton should win a medal. Any other British medals, apart from in the relays, would be unexpected.

The first day highlight is the men's 60 metres, in which Bruny Surin's chances of a third successive title for Canada are all the greater for the withdrawal of Ato Boldon, from Trinidad, on discovering that, to run both sprints, he would have to race five times today. He will concentrate on the 200 metres.

"I did not know about it until I got here," Boldon said. "If I had I would have done a Michael Johnson and demanded it was changed. I feel cheated."

Jason Livingston, in his first championship since returning from a drugs ban, said yesterday that he was optimistic of winning a medal.



George's world-record performances have helped to raise the international profile of her fledgeling event

Flying circus girl hits new heights

She flies through the air with the greatest of ease,
The daring young girl on the flying trapeze

The daring Australian is still propelling herself through the air, but in her national athletics vest, rather than the uniform of the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Emma George, once a child trapeze artist, is expected to be the star turn this weekend in the newest event at the world indoor athletics championships: the women's pole vault.

After setting ten world records, George finally has the chance to show what she can do in an international championship event. A trapeze performer at first, then a sprinter, it is the combination of these talents that has turned her into an overnight success.

"If I had not been a trapeze artist, I would not be vaulting like I am now," George, 22, said yesterday. "The aerial sense is so important. But not only do I have a gymnastic background, I was also a sprinter and the two combine very well."

Although there are more incentives than ever for athletes to trim world records, rather than savage them, George is too new to professional sport to be tainted by Sergey Bubka-style cynicism. Bubka raises the pole vault world record a centimetre at a time to maximise his earnings, and with bonuses on offer at the world championships for the first time, as well as at Grand Prix meetings, George might be tempted to follow suit. "No," she insists.

When she set an outdoor world record of 4.55 metres in Melbourne two weeks ago, George moved the mark up five centimetres. Nobody knows how good women can be at pole vaulting and George is in a hurry to soar close to the limits.

"I am not in it to make money," she said. "If we put it [the world record] up a centimetre at a time, it is going to be years before it becomes a legitimate event." The prize-money and world record bonus payments on offer are only half those paid in long-standing events.

Is George complaining? "Not at all," she said. "Even with half prize-money, that is a bonus." Riches, indeed, beyond her imagination when she was last in Paris, a year before she discovered pole vaulting. That was in 1993. Nursing her backpacker's budget, she lived on French sticks, cheese and nutty chocolate.

They were frugal days, but cheerful days, in one way at least. "I am not allowed to eat chocolate anymore," George said. "The heavier you are, the more weight you have to carry over the bar."

DAVID POWELL

Country practice may get London setting

BY DAVID POWELL

IT MAY be not much more than a germ of an idea at the moment, but the notion of the world cross-country championships taking place in central London, far away from the sport's rustic roots, has won support from leading officials in the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and British Athletic Federation (BAF); in the case of the IAAF, *the* leading official.

"If we can put something [a bid] together like Hyde Park, the international federation would jump at it." Ken Rickhuss, the BAF chairman, said. He was responding to the decision to take the world championships to a city centre for the first time — to Turin this month — because Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, hopes that, by doing so, it will raise the discipline's traditionally low profile.

Put to the IAAF, the response was that Nebiolo had thought of it already. The earliest that the championships could be staged in London would be 2001, unless political unrest were to force Belfast to withdraw as the host in 1999. The BAF would then need an alternative.

Turin may prove popular with spectators on March 23, but one man who believes that cross country on concrete is "just ludicrous" is David Clarke, the Great Britain team manager — one reason being that it will cost the earth. Or, rather, the earth will cost.

In the Parco del Valentino, the championships will take another long, sweeping turn away from tradition as lorry loads of earth are moved at huge expense to cover the extensive concrete areas in an attempt to turn the site into something resembling a cross-country course.

"It could be a fast, continental, world championships course — if the grass grows properly and it is not too wet," Clarke said, his cynicism obvious.

Otto Klappert, the chairman of the IAAF's cross-country committee, has voiced fears that, if it rains, "we could have problems".

FULL DETAILS OF INDOOR RECORDS AND WORLD RANKINGS

In each event the world record is given first, followed by the European record and the British record

Men

60 metres

6.41 A Cason (US) 1992
6 47 L Christie (GB) 1995
6 47 L Christie 1995

1997 RANKINGS: 6.49: M Green (Jam); 6.49 R Evans (US); 6.51 H Papadias (Gr); 6.51 B Sunn (Can); 6.51 T Montgomery (US). GB BEST: 6.55 J Livingston

200 metres

19.92 F Fredericks (Nam) 1996
20.25 L Christie (GB) 1995
20.25 L Christie 1995

1997 RANKINGS: 20.35 A Boldon (Trin); 20.47 G Moen (Nor); 20.51 R Griffin (US). GB BEST: 20.61 D Turner.

400 metres

44.63 M Johnson (US) 1995
45.05 T Schoenlebe (EG) 1988
45.39 J Baulch 1997

1997 RANKINGS: 45.39 J Baulch (GB); 45.83 M Hylton (GB); 45.97 D Mills (US); 46.08 R Mashchenko (Russ); 46.12 D Minor (US).

800 metres

1 44.84 P Ereng (Ken) 1989
1.44.88 N Molchebon (Ger) 1995
1 44 91 S Coe 1983

1997 RANKINGS: 1.45.98 E Tupurtits (Lat); 1.46.28 V Rodal (Nor); 1 46.40 N Motchebon (Ger); 1.46.55 R Chirchir (Ken); 1 46.61 M Epitriux (Ger). GB BEST: 1.48.35 A Hart.

1,000 metres

2.15.26 N Morceli (Alg) 1992
2.18.40 R Druppers (Holl) 1988
2.17.86 M Yates 1992

1997 RANKINGS: None available.

1,500 metres

3 31 18 H El Guerrouj (Mor) 1997
3 34 20 P Elliott (GB) 1990
3.34.20 P Elliott 1990

1997 RANKINGS: 3.31.18 H El Guerrouj (Mor); 3.36.25 W Tanui (Ken); 3.36.94 R Skenzel (Ger); 3.37.40 M O'Sullivan (Ire); 3.37.50 A Hakimi (Tun). GB BEST: 3.41.75 I Campbell

3000 metres

7.30.72 H Gebrsilassie (Eth) 1996
7.36.81 F Cacho (Sp) 1996
7 43.31 J Mayock 1997

1997 RANKINGS: 7 31.27 H Gebrsilassie (Eth); 7 36.78 M Kiptanui (Ken); 7.37 93 S Sghir (Mor); 7.39.32 D Baumann (Ger). GB BEST: 7.43.31 J Mayock.

60 metres hurdles

7.30 C Jackson (GB) 1994
7.30 C Jackson 1994
7.30 C Jackson 1994

1997 RANKINGS: 7.46 C Jackson (GB); 7.47 R Torian (US); 7 48 A Garcia (Cuba); 7 52 D Ross (US); 7.55 F Balzer (Ger).

4 x 400 metres relay

3.03.05 Germany 1991
3 03 05 Germany 1991
3.07 04 England 1987

High jump

2 43m J Sotomayer (Cuba) 1989
2.42m C Thranhardt (WG) 1988
2.38m S Smith 1994

1997 RANKINGS: 2.34m S Smith (GB); *2.33m S Moen (Nor); 2.33m* D Grant (GB); 2 33m T Forsyth (Aus); 2 32m C Austin (US)

Pole vault

6 15m S Bubka (Ukr) 1993
6.15m S Bubka 1993
5.61m N Buckfield 1996

1997 RANKINGS: 5 90m M Tarasov (Russ), 5 90m O Brits (SA), 5.85m I Potapovich (Kaz) 5 85m L Johnson (US).

Long jump

8 79m C Lewis (US) 1984
8.49m R Emmeyan (Russ) 1987
8 05m B Williams 1989
8 05m S Faulkner 1990

1997 RANKINGS 8 60m I Pedroso (Cuba) 8 35m K Sosunov (Russ) 8 19m M Sunneborn (Swe) 8 15m E Walder (US) 8 16m Y Tretyak (Russ)

Triple jump

17 83m E Umuhe (Cuba) 1997
17 77m L Voloshin (Russ) 1994
17.31m A Connor 1981

1997 RANKINGS 17 83m E Umuhe (Cuba) 17 38m Y Quesada (Cuba) 17 24m S Helen (Fr), 17 21m A Aseledchenko (Russ) 17 11m G Markov (Russ)

Shot

22 66m R Barnes (US) 1989
22 55m U Timmermann (EG) 1989
20 98m G Capes 1976

1997 RANKINGS 21 03m P Dal Soglio (It) 20 82m I Belong (Ukr) 20 78m O Sven Buder (Ger), 20 68m M Hakvan (Fin) 20 65m A Bagach (Russ). GB BEST 20 17m M Proctor

Heptathlon

6476pts D O Bnen (US) 1993
6418pts C Plazal (Fr) 1982
5978pts A Kruger 1995

1997 RANKINGS 6211pts T Dvorak (Cz), 6196pts L Lobodin (Russ), 6182pts P Damasek (Cz), 6148pts D Szabo (Hun), 6058pts S Schmidt (Ger)

Women

60 metres

6 92 I Privalova (Russ) 1993, 1995
6 92 I Privalova 1993, 1995
7 13 B Kinch 1986

1997 RANKINGS 7 00 G Devers (US), 7 02 I Privalova (Russ), 7 11 F Bangue (Fr) 7 12 G Torrence (US). GB BEST. 7 31 M Richardson

200 metres

21 87 M Ottey (Jam) 1993
22 10 I Privalova (Russ) 1995
22 96 D Fraser 1997

1997 RANKINGS 22 53 I Privalova (Russ), 22 80 J Cuthbert (Jam) 22 81 M Frazer (Jam) GB BEST: 22 96 D Fraser (GB)

400 metres

49.59 J Kratochvilova (Cz) 1982
49 59 J Kratochvilova 1982
51.69 P Smith 1997

1997 RANKINGS. 51.21 C Opara (Nigeria); 51.31 J Miles-Clark (US); 51 50 G Brauer (Ger), 51 69 P Smith (GB); 52.01 O Kotlyerova *(Russ).*

800 metres

1 56 40 C Wachtel (EG) 1988
1.56.40 C Wachtel 1988
2 01 12 J Finch 1977

1997 RANKINGS 1.58 02 M Mutola (Moz); 1.59.21 L Vriesde (Sur), 2 00 08 N Dukhnova (Bul); 2 00 49 L Formanova (Cz), 2.00 88 H Melesner (Ger) GB BEST: 2 02 36 H Parry

1500 metres

4 00.27 D Melinte (Rom) 1990
4 00.27 D Melinte 1990
4 06 87 Z Budd 1986

1997 RANKINGS 4.09 08 M Stoney (US); 4 06.14 G Szabo (Rom), 4 08 32 P Djate (Fr), 4 08.37 Y Podkopayeva (Russ); 4.08.69 C Sacramento (Por). GB BEST: 4.14.41 S Griffiths

3000 metres

8.33.82 E Van Hulst (Holl) 1989
8 33.82 E van Hulst 1989
8.34.80 L McColgan 1989

1997 RANKINGS: 8 53 11 M Bastos (Por); 8 53.85 O Yegorova (Russ); 8 56.31 E Rea (It).

60 metres hurdles

7.69 L Narozhilenko (Russ) 1990
7 69 L Narozhilenko 1990
8.01 J Agyepong 1995

1997 RANKINGS: 7 77 M Freeman (Jam); 7 82 B Bukovec (Slovakia); 7.91 C Dickey (US). GB BEST: 8.22 C Court.

4 x 400m relay

3.27.22 Germany 1991
3.27 22 Germany 1991
3.35.11 GB 1991

High jump

2.07m H Henkel (Ger) 1992
2.07m H Henkel 1992
1 95m D Marti 1997

1997 RANKINGS: 1 98m S Kostadinova (Bul); 1 97m Y Lyakhova (Russ); 1 97m I Babatkova (Ukr) GB BEST: 1.95m D Marti

Pole vault

4 40m E George (Aus) 1996
4.32m E Szemeredi (Hun) 1997
3.90m J Whitlock 1997

1997 RANKINGS: 4 40m E George (Aus), 4.32m E Szemeredi (Hun), 4.31m D Bartova (Cz); 4.30m S Dragila (US); 4.20m V Flosadottir (Ist) GB BEST: 3.90m J Whitlock.

Long jump

7 37m H Drechsler (EG) 1988
7 37m H Drechsler 1988
6 70m S Hearnshaw 1984

1997 RANKINGS 6.87m C Ajunwa (Nigeria), 6.85m H Drechsler (Ger); 6.81m N Xanthou (Gr); 6.84m F May (It); 6.78m L Ferga (Fr) GB BEST: 6 57m J Wise

Triple jump

15.03m Y Chen (Russ) 1995
15.03m Y Chen 1995
14.58m A Hansen 1996

1997 RANKINGS 14.81m R Maleescu (Rom); 14 74m J Lascvskaya (Russ); 14.57m A Hansen (GB).

Shot

22.50m H Fibingerova (Cz) 1977
22.50m H Fibingerova 1977
19.06m V Head 1984

1997 RANKINGS: 20.63m V Pavlysh (Ukr); 19.65m A Kumbernuss (Ger); 19.32m S Krwelyova (Russ). GB BEST: 18.12m J Oakes.

Pentathlon

4991pts I Byelova (Russ) 1992
4991pts I Byelova 1992
4362pts K Hagger 1984

1997 RANKINGS: 4618pts T Gordcyeva (Russ); 4597pts Y Voll (Russ); 4554pts T Hautala (Fin), 4504pts M Steigauf (Ger), 4386pts K Penginalli (It).

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND AND WALES AWAIT LATE FITNESS TESTS

Casualties lend air of uncertainty

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BOTH Wales and England, who meet in Cardiff on March 15 for the final round of the five nations' championship, hovered in a fog of uncertainty yesterday. England's squad of 27 does not suggest there will be radical change when the final XV is named next Tuesday, while Wales, with a squad of 26, may delay until as late as Thursday to give their long list of casualties the chance to recover.

Nor can England make any certain dispositions for the defence of their world sevens title in Hong Kong on March 22-23. Their squad of 12 must be reduced to ten on the day of departure, March 16, and that in turn will impinge upon the club schedule that week, certainly so far as Wasps and Leicester — first and second in the first division — are concerned.

If Paul Grayson, the Northampton stand-off half, is forced to withdraw from the international in Cardiff then England have a genuine problem not entirely of their making. The only other stand-off in the squad is Mike Catt and he is also the only goalkicker, having proved his capability in that department in the pre-Christmas internationals. But the squad contains no back up for him, in either respect.

Were Catt to play against Wales, then either Alex King or Mark Mapletoft would have to be drafted in to sit on the bench: of those two Mapletoft has enjoyed probably the more consistent season and has the advantage of being Gloucester's regular kicker, which King is not with Wasps. Otherwise, the England selectors are looking in vain round the first division for a stand-off qualified to play for them.

Joel Stransky's display for Leicester against Sale on Tuesday only emphasised the standard to which young English stand-off halves should aspire. The South African dominated the game tactically, to such an extent that Bob Dwyer, coaching director at Leicester, described him as one of only two players (the other being Andrew Mehrtens, the New Zealander) in international rugby equipped with the complete game at No 10.

"Joel can run with the ball, he can kick out of hand, off the ground, he's great at restarts and he's a great leader of the backs," Dwyer said. "I would not be at all surprised if South Africa said they were interested in him again."

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Leicester are desperate to avoid postponement of more league games but they are acutely affected by the world sevens: not only do they have three players in England's squad but the Irish squad, to be named today, may also include Eric Miller and Niall Malone.

Leicester had hoped to play London Irish on March 16, the day England fly out to Hong Kong but the Irish sevens squad leaves on March 15, probably taking with it three London Irishmen, as well as the likes of Miller and Malone. Therefore, that game remains subject to confirmation, as does Leicester's league game with Gloucester at Kingsholm on March 22, while the scheduled meeting with Wasps on March 29 has already been transferred to April 2 because of Leicester's involvement in the Pilkington Cup semi-finals; seldom has success been penalised so heavily.

Meanwhile, Wales have added Spencer John, the Llanelli prop, and two locks, Mike Voyle, of Llanelli, and Paul Arnold, of Swansea, to shore up their front five unit. There are queries over Christian Loader, David Young, Lyndon Mustoe and Craig Quinnell, and Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, hinted yesterday that a back-row forward could be asked to play lock now that Pontypridd's Mark Rowley is out of the picture.

☐ Blackheath have confirmed that an offer has been made to bring Zinzan Brooke, the New Zealand No 8, to play in England next season. "A definite offer is on the table," Phil Ubee, Blackheath's assistant coach, said. "Zinzan is considering it and has promised to tell us his decision in the summer." Brooke is still under contract with the New Zealand Rugby Football Union.

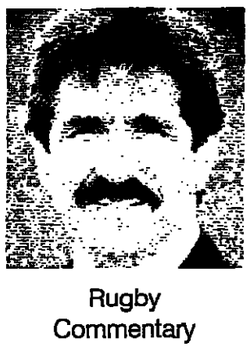
TEAM DETAILS

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: T Stimpson (Newcastle), M Catt (Bath), J Sleightholme (Bath), W Carling (Harlequins), P de Glanville (Bath), J Guscott (Bath), W Greenwood (Leicester), T Underwood (Newcastle), A Adebayo (Bath), P Grayson (Northampton), A Gomersall (Wasps), A Healey (Leicester). Forwards: G Rowntree (Leicester), J Leonard (Harlequins), D Garforth (Leicester), J Mallett (Bath), M Regan (Bristol), P Greening (Gloucester), M Johnson (Leicester), S Shaw (Bristol), G Archer (Newcastle), L Dallaglio (Wasps), R Hill (Saracens), N Back (Leicester), B Clarke (Richmond), T Rodber (Northampton), A Diprose (Saracens).

WELSH SQUAD: Backs: N Jenkins (Pontypridd), W Proctor (Llanelli), I Evans (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend), A Bateman (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swansea), N Davies (Llanelli), J Davies (Cardiff), R Howley (Cardiff), P John (Pontypridd). Forwards: C Loader (Swansea), D Young (Cardiff), L Mustoe (Cardiff), J Davies (Neath), S John (Llanelli), J Humphreys (Cardiff), G Jenkins (Swansea), G Llewellyn (Harlequins), C Quinnell (Richmond), M Voyle (Llanelli), P Arnold (Swansea), S Williams (Neath), H Taylor (Cardiff), C Charvis (Swansea), S Quinnell (Richmond), D McIntosh (Pontypridd)
ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD: A Adebayo (Bath), J Sleightholme (Bath), S Roiser (Wasps), W Greenwood (Leicester), N Beal (Northampton), M Catt (Bath), A Healey (Leicester), D Scully (Wakefield), N Back (Leicester), L Dallaglio (Wasps), C Sheasby (Wasps), T Rodber (Northampton). Reserves: N Greenstock (Wasps), R Hill (Saracens), R Jenkins (Harlequins).

New riches must be used wisely

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

Now we know the full extent of the contracts that the rugby union authorities in Europe have negotiated with the television companies. England, in fact, let the cat out of the bag last summer: the Rugby Football Union can expect, in total, something in the region of a £250 million over a four-year period. *This is riches beyond* its wildest dreams.

Even before the game turned professional, the likelihood was that these deals would have been struck. Rugby union, as a result largely of the success of the World Cup, was a burgeoning sport with a rapidly growing spectator interest. The insatiable needs of television and the intense competition from the many channels of the future would insist that the fees would no longer remain on modest levels.

After all, the southern-hemisphere countries had concluded their multi-million dollar television agreement during the last World Cup, when rugby, constitutionally at least, still cherished its amateur tradition.

Quite what the unions would have done with such a treasure chest in those days is anyone's guess. But now that the game has changed we know that the largest portion of the television money will form the salaries of players, coaches and other executives. The overheads are already considerable: the television revenue will be a lifeline to many a club. The likelihood is, though, that some clubs will come to depend on it too much.

There are many dangers. A sense of complacency might easily arise. Clubs with such ready-made wealth may be persuaded that they need not expend too much effort in raising revenue.

The inflated fees that have been paid in England, because of generous patrons, are distorting the market and causing an imbalance: not just in Ireland, Scotland and Wales — where the rugby drain has already been substantial — but in France and South Africa. To say that all is fair in a free market is dangerous. Even in the greatest free market in the Western world, the United States, the sport of American football is regulated and closely scrutinised.

It will not be in the best interests of rugby union if the playing talent is concentrated in too few clubs and drawn away from other countries. The strength of rugby's future lies in a wide spread of competition. It may be that it is in the immediate interest of English clubs to strengthen their squads, but not if this means in the long-term that domestic rugby is diminished elsewhere. The high fees could also be distorting England's own domestic values.

It is the quality and depth of domestic rugby in all countries that will determine the good health of the game as a whole. It is through this that *international rugby flourishes*, for it is international rugby that has raised the profile of the game to inspire television to be so interested.

Clubs are likely, therefore, to be persuaded, in trying to keep up with others, to spend their new-found money on the playing staff at the expense, most probably, of other forms of investment. Club facilities, for instance, are in desperate need of improvement.

It is on the back of the success of international rugby that the unions and clubs have benefited. The rugby authorities admit that a distorted perspective has occurred here, too. International matches represent great sporting occasions, with an atmosphere to match, in a way that club games, with rare exceptions, are not.

While there has been change, there remains a vast gulf separating club rugby from the great theatre of the international arena. No such gap exists in football, a sport which had time to develop facilities when players' salaries were at a low rate. Rugby union has had to make swift adjustments, rather than *evolve* into professionalism. Facilities for players, spectators and, given that the clubs have happily embraced the money available, the media, are well below the standard required of a professional sport.

Three factors may force clubs to review their positions. The European context of the Heineken Cup, and its potential for growth, is a competition which may insist on improved all-round facilities. *Professional players will want* a playing surface appropriate to their expected level of performance.

Second, television will want an atmospheric setting that will satisfy, ultimately, a pay-per-view audience. It will want a grand arena and a playing surface that is a greensward.

Third, families will need comfortable places to visit before and after a game and not simply a place where they serve beer. Other attractions and amenities will have to be on offer, other than those that traditionally have encouraged a predominantly adult male culture. All this will require a substantial investment.

Northampton Rugby Football Club

One of the leading clubs in the UK with 10 current Internationals and great plans over the next 3 years seeks a new team sponsor.

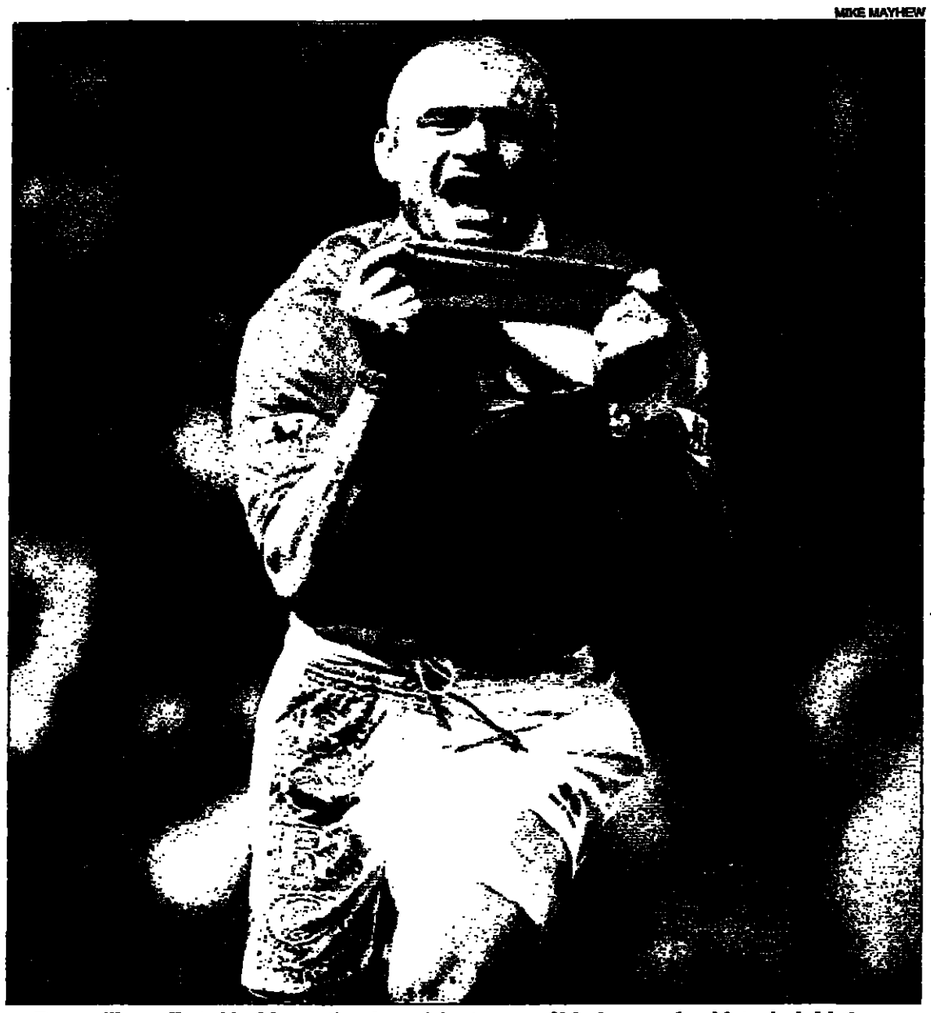
We have lots to offer. To find out more phone John Shurvinton on 01604 751543.

Haunted by Ravanelli's invisible touch

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming



MIKE MAYHEW

Ravanelli, unaffected by his mystic miss, celebrates one of his three goals with typical shirtiness

There was a big queue for passport photos in the Boots in Middlesbrough on Wednesday afternoon, and it seemed quite natural that azure foreign skies should beckon. This was the greyest of grey days in a town centre where tumbleweed blows unheeded through the shopping precinct, and Mrs Emerson quite rightly refuses to leave the sauna except for the solarium. Kids shoot cats for pleasure in Teesside, according to the headline in the *Evening Gazette*. During rush hour, Middlesbrough railway station is deserted, like something weird out of *The Avengers*. To cap it all, of course, the football team is hanging by its fingertips to the Premiership, despite massive local support and more cup chances than it quite knows what to do with.

Why go to see Middlesbrough at home to Derby County? Well, naturally I asked that question a few times myself, especially as I walked pluckily alone through dank underpasses between the town centre and the Riverside Stadium, having failed to secure a tour of the spectacular new ground in the afternoon. Pedestrians are warned by helpful posters not to linger on the railway line when taking this hazardous route — "Let Juninho make the dangerous crosses! Use the railway crossing points safely!" — but I only saw the posters after I'd stopped on the railway track with my fingers in my mouth and thought resignedly: "And now, on top of everything, I'm going to be killed."

Middlesbrough is a passionate place about football, and of course Wednesday evening was — in a lesser way, perhaps, than Manchester United's encounter with the Portuguese — historic. *From Doom to Boom* is the title of a book covering the club's past ten years, and the phrase sums up the dramatic curve of the match on Wednesday quite neatly. Beating Derby 6-1 in the league (just days before the FA Cup match) was what you might call an unlooked-for result. The man who settled next to me in the South Stand before kick-off cast his mind back to another Middlesbrough v Derby match, in 1958, when the final score was a madly exciting 7-1. How we laughed at the thought of it! "Won't see that tonight!" we agreed. "Late summer, it was," he said wistfully, fingering the cloth cap curled in his lap. "I remember Derby went one up."

This was a loose game from the start, and compared with the squeaky tightness of the Newcastle v Monaco game the previous night — in which it seemed that players had to leave the pitch if they wanted to turn round — one's first impression of all the light and air between the free-running players brought to mind ponies gambolling in the New Forest, or 22 puppies up for a lark. Not much man-marking: lots of passing to the Invisible Man. Only one goal occurred in the first half (Kinder striking from 30 yards) but it felt like a lot more. Perhaps it was the constructive yelling of the loyal home crowd, but it felt as if anything could happen.

What largely happened in the second half was that Derby kept neglecting to run back to their own goal, perhaps out of misplaced petulance. "No, look, we're going this way," they objected, hand-on-hip, as Juninho or Craig Hignett turned on sixpences and sped off with the ball, like dogs in a park spoiling a nice game of catch. It must have been very annoying for Derby to see this happen, especially four times on the trot. Play was rarely stopped for free kicks, either. The referee, Mike Reed (you know who), did a lot of that annoying referee-thing of running with both arms out in front — "Play on! Don't stop!" — suggestive of a man winning a sports day race balancing cups and saucers on his wrists.

I have to say that I had a mystical experience at this match, disbelieve it if you will. When Ravanelli made his first attempt at goal in the 21st minute, which he missed, *I saw the ball go in*. I know I can't have done, but I did. It was right in front of me, too. Kinder and Beck somehow put the ball in Ravanelli's path, just six yards from the vacant goal, he struck it with his right foot and, well, *I know what I saw*. Other people near me likewise saw the phantom goal, and we danced and pranced. This was my first experience of mass hallucination at a football match. It's a good job I'm not trusted with match reporting.

By the end of the evening, however, the crowd had seen three real, flesh-and-blood goals from their famous Italian and were rightly singing "Super Ravanelli" stuff, evidently for the first time in months. Stung, perhaps, by widespread criticism of his notable under-achievement for the club (playing rubbish for £40,000 a week), the White Feather decided to turn hero on Wednesday, and earn his crust. Juninho, meanwhile, was his usual adorably eager self. Emerson elegantly twinkle-toed his way through some tight spots, but passed badly and was taken off, quite seriously injured. It's odd to think that these exotic Teessiders probably won't be on show next season. I can't believe they'd get crowd support like Middlesbrough's anywhere else.

> **'Other people near me likewise saw the phantom goal, and we danced and pranced'**

Sorry not to say much about Derby, but it's the curse of the novice: I can only concentrate on one team at a time. At least I am generally loyal to the home side (only waiving this rule when the visitors are Chelsea). Such identification can be a bit scary, however. On Wednesday night, I found myself cheering with everyone else at Southampton's half-time score of 0-2, as if I really wanted it. Yes, yes, let Southampton go down! Three points to Middlesbrough, and no points to Southampton: that's what we want up here in the North East, isn't that right, pet?

I was secretly relieved, however, to learn afterwards that Southampton drew their match. How could I really wish harm on Matt Le Tissier and his stripy-socked brigade? I had a lovely time at The Dell last autumn. Good grief, they beat Middlesbrough, didn't they? What a brutal business this relegation struggle is. And by all accounts, there is fat chance the FA will relent at this stage, and say: "All right, only joking, you can *all* stay up." And then, as an afterthought, "Got you going, though, didn't we?"

RADIO CHOICE

The diarist as painter

Messages to Myself. *Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.*

The former New York journalist Edward Robb Ellis has filled his 35,000-page diary with more than 20 million words since he began compiling it nearly 70 years ago. Stuart Milligan reads extracts from it this morning, and Ellis himself provides the diarist's authentic voice. The diary is full of remarkable pen-pictures that are almost as detailed as any in Dickens. Ellis records what President Truman told him about the infamous Senator McCarthy, the organiser of the Communist witch-hunts of the 1950s, how Irving Berlin reacted when he sang some of the composer's songs to him and, poignantly, why he felt a mystical bonding between his ancestors and his wife's when they visited what was once New York's entry point for immigrants, Ellis Island.

Paths of Inspiration. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

Trevor McDonald couldn't have improved on Desmond Tutu as his choice for the first eminent black person to be interviewed in this series. Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and chairman of South Africa's Truth Commission, Tutu is his nation's spiritual leader. Heavy responsibilities, all of them. Yet there is an extraordinary humility about the man, and an equally extraordinary absence of bitterness when he recalls the apartheid years. This being Radio 2, it's not surprising that the interview is interrupted from time to time to hear his favourite music and poems.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong: Essential Selection, featuring the best new dance music **10.00** One in the Jungle **12.00** Radio 1 Rap Show. Presented by Tim Westwood **3.00am** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** Paths of Inspiration. See Choice (1/5) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. Live from the Hippdrome in Golders Green, London. Martin Loveday leads the BBC Concerto Orchestra conducted by Roderick Dunk **8.45** Rumpole for the Defence (5/6) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Gillian Reynolds **12.05am** Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.30** Friday Sport. Robin Bailey presents commentary on the Division One match between Barnsley and Sheffield United **10.00** Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Nick Higham **11.00** News Extra with David McNeil **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT News on the hour, **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Missionaries **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **8.45** Soundbyte **9.05** Business **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian Books **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** Soundbyte **3.30** Music Review **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.30** The New Europe **10.45** Sport **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Insider's Guide **11.25** Book Choice **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Seven Days **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Science in Action **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Clara Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor Op 7) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. J.S. Bach (Oboe Sonata in E flat major BWV1031) **8.00** Evening Concert. Bizet (Roma); Carl Maria von Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in E flat Major Op 74); Leopold Mozart (Peasant Wedding); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C major Op 21) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Alan Freeman **12.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Fauré (Pelléas and Mélisande); Elgar (Piano Quintet, Op 84); Charpentier (Amor Vince Ogni Cosa); Beethoven (Sextet in E flat); Kraus (Overture, Olympie); Vaughan Williams (Phantasy Quintet); Glazunov (Piano Concerto No 2 in B)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Walton (Overture. Portsmouth Point; Cello Concerto); Wagner (Suite: Sleeping Beauty)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Includes Walton (Sonata for Strings); Scriabin (Vers la Flamme, Op 74); Mussorgsky (The Nursery); Rachmaninov (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 19). Harty (John Field Suite); Chopin (Nocturne in B, Op 62 No 1); Arriaga (String Quartet No 3 in E flat)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Anton Webern
12.40pm Bach. Preludes and Fugues in F minor; in B flat minor. Performed by Mieczyslaw Horszowski, piano
1.00pm News; Chamber Music from Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Slatford. Suk (Elegie, Op 23); Dvořák (Piano Trio in E minor, Op 90)
2.00 Metamorphoses. Britten (Six Metamorphoses after Ovid). John Anderson, oboe
2.15 Music Restored. Introduced by Anthony Rooley. Musica Secreta performs music from 17th-century Italy by Lucrezia Vizzana, Margarita Cozzolani and Barbara Strozzi (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive. A celebration of the life of the cellist Thomas Igloi
5.00 Music Machine. Tommy Pearson looks for the key dramatic ingredients in a good musical
5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Includes Wolf (Italian Songbook, selection); Beethoven (Variations on Mozart's Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen from Die Zauberflöte); Strauss (Salome, closing scene)
7.30 Rites of Spring. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Pierre Boulez gives another concert devoted to the music of Igor Stravinsky, starting with Persephone **8.30** Andriessen on Stravinsky Michael Berkeley talks to the composer Louis Andriessen about his love for Stravinsky's music **8.50** Concert, part 2. Stravinsky (Oedipus Rex) With Jon Garrison, tenor, Louise Winter, mezzo, and Alan Opie, baritone
9.55 Little England/Big World: Electioneering. Sir Bernard Ingham joins the presenter Alistair Beaton in the studio to tell him the five lies you have to learn before you can even start electioneering, and the poet Mark Kelly delivers his own party manifesto
10.15 Hear and Now. Bayan Northcott recalls a brief period when music seemed the latest thing. Includes Maxwell Davies (Alma Redemptori Mater); Gordon Crosse (A Carol); Birtwistle (The World is Discovered); Payne (Phoenix Mass)
12.15am Composer of the Week: Koechlin (r)
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Susan Greenfield (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00 News; Messages to Myself (FM). See Choice
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Charlotte Smith
12.25pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper visits the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronicles, by Anthony Trollope With Rosemary Leach and John Carlisle (1/3) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow looks back at the British arts of 30 years ago
4.45 Short Story: Civil Peace, by Chinua Achebe (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places. David Stafford reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Kate Adie presents her selection of extracts from BBC radio over the past seven days
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Witney in Oxfordshire. With Bruce Anderson and MPs Chris Smith, Diana Maddock and Sir Nicholas Bonsor
8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins. Includes an investigation into whether the European Court of Justice will work if it is reformed
9.15 Letter from America. Another slice of life Stateside written by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. On his death 200 years ago, *Horace Walpole* left a legacy of two castles, a mansion in Strawberry Hill, and *The Castle of Otranto*, the first Gothic novel (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (10/10) (r)
11.00 Week Ending. A look at the week's events with Selly Grace and the comedy revue team
11.25 Tea Junction. A sceptical look at the week's news with Patrick Harman and guests
11.45 Twilight. Joanna Pinnock goes in search of the moths that inhabit a typical back garden (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (5/15) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

CAMISARDS
(a) In French history, the Protestant insurgents of the Cévennes, who resisted the violence of the Dragonnades occasioned by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and carried on a fierce war of reprisals with Louis XIV's forces until finally suppressed in 1705. So called from the *camise* or blouse worn by the peasantry.

MABINOGION
(b) A collection of 11 medieval Celtic stories, of which the Four Branches of the Mabinogi are the outstanding. Originally they were probably essentially concerned with the life and death of Pryderi. Mabinogi is derived from *mab* youth, and was applied to "a tale of youth", then to any tale.

DORNICK
(b) Stout figured linen for tablecloths. So called from Doornick, the Flemish name of Tournai, where it was originally made.

QUIDDISTS
(b) Or *Quids*. In the USA, sectionalists of the Democratic-Republican party under John Randolph who sought to maintain the ascendancy of Virginia and its planter aristocracy against the more democratic elements. The name was from *tertium quid*, "a third something or other", opposed to the Federalists and administration Republicans.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxg6! hxg6 2 Re7+ Rxe7 3 dxe7+ Kxe7 4 Rd8! Kxd8 5 h7 and the pawn goes through.

BOWLS

Shaw almost in seventh heaven

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

NORMA SHAW, from Thornaby, who for years was regarded as England's finest woman bowler, in the way that David Bryant was universally acknowledged as the sport's leading man, is on course to win the national indoor singles title for the seventh time at York today, after battling through to the semi-finals.

A delighted Shaw claimed yesterday that the competition for the title has got more intense over the years, and that the proliferation of tight-running bowls has made it more difficult to keep on winning.

"I am still using the same set of woods that took me to my first title, in 1978," Shaw said. "They bend nicely, and that's the essence of the game. Too many competitors seem to have gone in for bowls with less bias, and it's spoiling the game."

In the semi-final today, Shaw will play Carol Ashby, of Eastbourne, who put an end to the hopes of Kath Strutt, who had qualified in four events, and has been on the green every day this week. Strutt led 15-9 but looked tired as she dropped ten shots without reply on the way to a 21-19 defeat.

A repeat of the 1988 final is likely, as Edna Bessell, of Yeovil, whom Shaw beat 21-20 to win the title nine years ago, will take on Jayne Roylance, of North Walsham, in the other semi-final.

Bessell swept to an easy 21-7 win over Jane Redfern, of Rushden Town, but Roylance, the 1993 champion, had a tense struggle with her young international colleague, Kath Hawes, of Cherwell, before getting home 21-14.

Roylance's brother, David Ward, who helped North Walsham to victory in the Denny Cup last weekend and will skip for England in Northern Ireland next week, has qualified in all four events for the men's nationals, which will be staged at Melton Mowbray next month.

HOCKEY

Cambridge should have edge

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE venue may not have the appeal of Twickenham, the event may not get the same exposure as the Boat Race, but the annual women's hockey match between Oxford and Cambridge Universities is a matter of pride and history nonetheless.

The teams will take to the field in Cambridge tomorrow to decide the fate of the Challenge Cup and, having prised it from Oxford's grasp last year with a 3-0 victory, their first win since 1991, Cambridge are determined not to let it go.

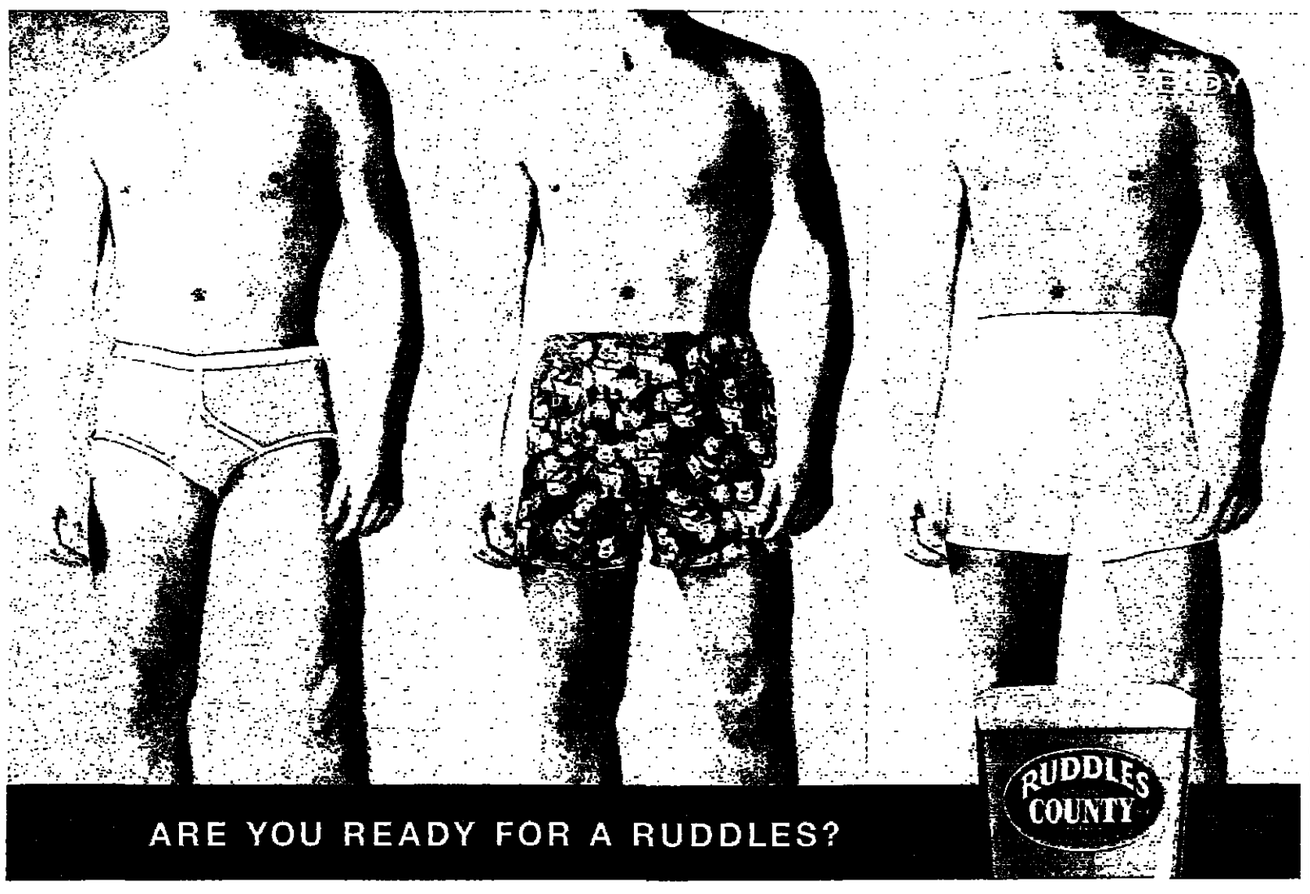
Oxford and Cambridge last met a matter of weeks ago in the BUSA Cup, a nail-biting affair that ended with Cambridge squeezing through on penalties. It has been that sort of season for Oxford.

Cambridge won promotion to the second division of the East Super League last year and have been trying to find their feet ever since. Their cause is not helped by the fact that seven of the 14 league matches are outside term time, which makes getting a team together an almost impossible task.

While the men will play their match at the National Hockey Stadium, in Milton Keynes, the women are forced to play second fiddle, holding their fixture at the University Astroturf in Wilberforce Road.

CAMBRIDGE: C Wright (St Catherine's, Melbourne and St Catharine's), L Ellwood (Kings HS for Girls and Jesus), K Hunter (Taunton and Girton), C Edmonson (Turton HS and Fitzwilliam), F Pantizza (Colchester Co HS and Churchill), R Gilpin (Manchester HS for Girls and Clare, captain), S Boys-Smith (James Allen's Girls HS and St John's), S Gilder (Cheltenham Ladies nd St John's), E Kelly (Rossall and King's), J Dobbs (Howell's and Emmanuel), N Redpath (Nottingham Univ and St Edmund's), S Parry-Jones (The Castle and Downing), S Boyd (Regent House GS and Christ's), M Lewis (The Abbey and Jesus), L Short (Edgbarrow and St Catharine's)

OXFORD: C Deane (Croydon HS and University, captain), E Williamson (Bristol GS and St Hugh's), L Atkinson (Lady Eleanor Holles and Jesus), C McKenna (Nottingham Girls and Magdalen), C Blit (Kingston GS and St John's), L Hudsmith (King's, Canterbury and Lady Margaret Hall), C Pickford (Parkstone GS and Queen's), V Pope (Plymouth and Pembroke), A Rendu (Church Hill CS and New College), N Jacobsen (St Hilda's C of E HS and St Hugh's), J Sanders (Bradford Girls GS and New College), C Taylor (Kendrick and Queen's), A Morgan (Cheltenham Ladies and Corpus Christi), N Watson (Cheltenham Ladies and Keble), A Brown (St Helen's and St Anne's), B Hall-Thompson (Millfield and Trinity).



Weighty matters exercise couch potatoes

By the end of last night's **Horizon** (BBC2) fat was undeniably a pessimist's issue. We're all going to die... and many of us are going to hasten the process by becoming seriously overweight. People who sit around watching television all day are particularly vulnerable, apparently. Nearly choked on my chocolate digestive.

The initial statistics, however, seemed reassuring. One in seven people in Britain are obese, which conveniently allowed six out of seven of us to sit back and think "well, it'll never happen to me, my blood serum's not going to turn the colour of softly boiled egg white". But just when you thought this was another scare-documentary aimed at "other people", just when you thought there might just be room for a little more stilton on that cracker, the producer (the aptly named Debbie Cadbury) twisted the butter knife.

"Doctors are discovering," the narration began ominously, "that the risk of serious disease increases with just a *small* gain in weight." Suddenly it was hunt-the-plimsolls time.

Reassurance, we were told, could be sought only through something called the body mass index. Unfortunately this turned out to involve the sort of sum that five-year-olds probably need to get into primary schools, but which are way beyond their agitated elders. "Your-weight-in-kilograms," gabbled the hitherto calm Jo Unwin, "divided by the square root of your height *in metres*." Or was it your height squared? Anyway, anything over 25 and you were in trouble. I made mine 60. Where *were* those plimsolls?

Did things get better after that? I'm not entirely sure. We learnt that as a nation we were eating less than 20 years ago (a good thing) but that we were exercising much, much less (a very bad thing, particularly for our increasingly cooped-up and increasingly plump children). We were told, very firmly, that the idea of fat people having a "slow metabolism" was a myth and then we got thoroughly confused when we were told that fat mice might have the genetic equivalent of a slow metabolism after all. Give them a jab of a hormone that they do not produce naturally and lo, they become thin mice. The holy slimming grail? Sadly, only for mice.

Which was why Heather *was having her stomach* stapled. She'd simply had enough of being 23 stone. It was either the operation or another suicide attempt. Unlike the diet pills and fat substitutes that have caused such problems in America, the surgery actually worked. In the following six months, Heather lost six stone and she also rediscovered her smile.

Of course, there are other ways *of keeping weight down and by* now we are familiar with the method preferred by Dr Owen Springer and Anna Fairley in **Reckless** (ITV). It's not the sex that burns up their calories, it's all the exhausting manoeuvres to ensure that absolutely nothing untoward appears on our screens. Basically it's sheets tucked firmly under chins at all times, or clothes on. Given the hype that preceded the series, I think one brief glimpse of Robson Green's bottom definitely goes down as a disappointment.

My other disappointment is the humour. There's simply too much of it. It's not so much the occasionally laboured wit in Paul Abbott's scripts or indeed the performances (Julian Rhind-Tutt, as the increasingly neurotic Danny, gets better each week) but the direction. As last night's knockabout hospital inquiry scenes indicated, comedy has been pursued with a vigour that suggests a reluctance to tackle a serious subject seriously. That, however, is a hallmark of ITV drama and if the ratings are anything to go by, they are right and I am high-minded (except, of course, when it comes to counting bottoms) and wrong.

But despite these misgivings, I'll happily accept that *Reckless* has become compulsive Thursday night viewing and that Abbott has got things beautifully placed for next week's finale. Having finally learnt that it was Owen (Green) who deliberately sabotaged her marriage to Richard (Michael Kitchen, getting even better as he gets nastier), Anna (Francesca Annis) has understandably gone right off both her admirers. Secretly, I'm hoping that she runs off with Owen's dad, Arnold (David Bradley), but I wouldn't put too much money on it.

For the second time this week the answer to the eternal "whodunnit?" turned out to be the guy with no legs. In Tuesday's episode of *Quantum Leap* (really only worth watching for a young Jennifer Aniston) the non-fatal attack was made possible because our Vietnam veteran amputee was actually a time traveller who had legs... only you couldn't see them. In last night's **X Files** (BBC2), several very fatal attacks were possible because our Desert Storm quadruple amputee... was capable of astral projection. I wish I hadn't started this paragraph.

Anyway, it was all very dark and foggy as it always is in *X Files*-land. Mulder muttered about astral and corporeal bodies and Scully snapped "Mulder", in that special, exasperated way of hers.

Up until then I'd been sceptical of claims that the BBC had moved the series to a later hour on the ground of taste (it now goes out against *News at Ten* – spooky, huh?) but this episode suggested right was on its side. Within minutes a shell-shocked Colonel had attempted suicide by throwing himself in a pool of boiling water. This being the *X Files*, he survived... unlike Sergeant Aiklen, whose date with the hospital woodchipper thankfully occurred off-screen. Never mind "out there", the truth is horrid.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (10858)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (15216)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5378910)
9.20 Style Challenge (4705587)
9.45 Kilroy (4305552)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (50216)
11.00 News (T) and weather (6338649)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7940378)
11.35 Change That (8518910)
12.00 News (T), regional news and weather (7482378)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5416281)
12.30 Going for a Song (8793649)
12.55 The Weather Show (79857113)
1.00 News (T) and weather (18303) **1.30** Regional news and weather (83607858)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (11821465)
2.05 Jane's House (1993) with Anne Archer and James Woods. An independent executive marries a widower and attempts to help him to bring up his teenage children, but their wedded bliss is threatened when she fails to adjust to her new role of wife and mother. Directed by Glenn Jordan (7102823)
3.30 Playdays (r) (5383194) **3.50** The Friday Zone (4529571) **4.55** Newsround Extra. Aspiring young journalists quiz the three party leaders (9618638) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5062295)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (681552)
6.00 News (T) and weather (197)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (587)
7.00 Big Break Alex Higgins takes on fellow Irishmen Joe Swail and Steve Murphy in the snooker game show (T) (7007)
7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (571)
8.00 Porridge Classic prison comedy (r) (6755)
8.30 A Question of Sport Light-hearted quiz hosted by David Coleman. The team captains, John Parrott and Sam Torrance, are joined by Jason McAteer, Judy Oakes, Tony Underwood and Jamie Osborne (T) (5262)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T), regional news and weather (7842)
9.30 Silent Witness: Cease Upon the Midnight (2/2) The exhumation of Mark Tate's body throws up a few surprises, while on the personal front, Sam's relationship with Peter Ross intensifies (T) (563842)
10.20 The Mrs Merton Show Footballer Vinnie Jones and pop star Boy George have a heart-to-heart with the perky pensioner (T) (772465)
10.50 Where Eagles Dare (1969) with Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood and Michael Hordern. Classic espionage thriller based on Alastair MacLean's book. An elite commando group is dispatched to rescue an American general held by the Nazis in a castle fortress in the Bavarian Alps. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (T) (26442755)
1.20am Unknown Guest (1943, b/w) with Victor Jory, Pamela Blake, Harry Hayden and Veda Ann Borg. A woman suspects her beau of murder when he takes over his aunt and uncle's inn. Directed by Kurt Neumann (7031446)
2.25 Weather (8445392)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University (7304910) **6.25** Lifestyles, Work and the Family (5116002) **7.15** News (T) (7227465) **7.30** Captain Caveman (8088007) **7.55** The Really Wild Show (r) (T) (3451281) **8.20** Just So Stories (7920858) **8.35** The Record (5044465) **9.00** The French Experience (5385200) **9.15** The Biology Collection (552910) **9.45** Watch (7169823) **10.00** Playdays (68088) **10.30** Hotch Potch House (2473465) **10.50** Cosmo and Dibs in Punjabi and English (5347026) **11.00** Look and Read (9373804) **11.20** Short Circuit (9266552) **11.40** English Time (9144026) **12.00** English File (69910) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (96552) **1.00** Scene (16945) **1.30** Le Club (83516552) **1.45** Words and Pictures (83511007) **2.00** Just So Stories (36143736)
2.10 Sport on Friday Helen Rollason introduces action from the first day of the World Indoor Athletic championships in Paris (963007) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Today's the Day (200) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (484) **5.00** Esther (8113)
5.30 Seniors Pot Black Doug Mountjoy v Eddie Charlton (736)
6.00 Star Trek (r) (T) (278945)
6.50 International Athletics Coverage of the World Indoor Athletics championships from Paris, featuring the finals of the men's and women's 60m (947787)
7.10 Pole to Pole Michael Palin travels through Istanbul on the Bosphorus to Aswan on the Nile (r) (T) (734991)
8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie Bird watching from Rutland Water, a reservoir with a built-in bird reserve (T) (4397)
8.30 Gardeners' World In the South of France Alan Titchmarsh meets Jean Mus, a designer with an eye for plants which can survive drought; Gay Search finds a cottage garden on a London rooftop; and Stephen Lacey explains how to make the most of spring bulbs (T) (3804)
9.00 Red Dwarf Chaos reigns when the crew catch up with Red Dwarf and meet an old friend. Last in series (T) (5484)



The two fat comedy cooks (9.30pm)

9.30 The Two Fat Ladies' Comedy Cook-in Clarissa Dickson-Wright and Jennifer Paterson present a selection of their favourite comedy moments. Featuring clips from *Morecambe and Wise, French and Saunders* and *Fry and Laurie*. **10.00** Alas Smith and Jones (T) (29197)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (739910)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (936194)
11.15 Space: Above and Beyond The marines' life pod crashes (984295)
12.00 Stuff the White Rabbit (78682)
12.30am-2.05 Pram (1962, b/w) with Inger Taube, Thommy Berggren and Lars Passgard. A young woman has to choose between two different lovers. Directed by Bo Widerberg. In Swedish with English subtitles (320953)

CHOICE

Porridge
BBC1, 8.00pm

The glorious Dick Clement-Ian La Frenais prison sitcom needs no recommendation from this column, but its revival does spark a thought. This is that the best entertainment offered by television recently has all been upwards of 20 years old. Yet another rerun of *Dad's Army* has revealed the Second World Warhorse to be as sprightly and timeless as ever, revivals of Morecambe and Wise make today's comedy acts seem crude and witless and *The Two Ronnies*, for all their political incorrectness, remain, at their best, brilliant performers with brilliant scripts. Admittedly we are talking about the cream and a perusal of the schedules of 25 years ago would probably reveal just as many duds as there are today. All the same, in the history of television comedy the late 1990s seem unlikely to go down as a golden age.

Birding With Bill Oddie
BBC2, 8.00pm

Our jocular man with the binoculars is in Rutland for the annual British Birdwatching Fair. It is a good peg for the programme for not only does the fair offer six huge marquees of exhibits but it is next to a reservoir with a built-in nature reserve. Oddie starts, however, with the Victorians, to underline how much the hobby has changed. In the absence of good binoculars to help with identification, the Victorians did not just look at birds but shot them and took them home. Significantly, they called themselves collectors, not watchers. This historical diversion serves to emphasise the big advances in bird spotters' aids, not only binoculars but telescopes and field guides. Oddie is an enthusiastic guide who knows his stuff but never lectures and, above all, transmits enjoyment.

Bloom
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The series on flower families ends with the poppy. The meconopsis bulks large, as it deserves to. Some of the best specimens, including the national collection of the exquisite perennial blues, are to be found in the garden of the Scottish co-presenter Bill Chudziak. So it is off to Craigieburn, and the cool, shady and moist climate that helps the meconopsis to grow so well. But the programme's most spectacular image, one which never fails to startle, is of a vast field of red poppies growing wild. Like an Impressionist painting, says Chudziak, though he is quick to mention the red poppy's other connotation, as a symbol of the bloodshed of the First World War. If *Bloom* has been more original in its format than its content, it has been enthusiastically presented and a feast for the eye.

Catherine Cookson's The Moth
ITV, 9.00pm

Things are getting worse before they get better in this full-blooded tale of unhappy families and class divides. The casting is usually a fair guide to the plot and the smart money must be on an eventual romance between the two central characters. Jack Davenport's personable young carpenter and Sarah (Juliet Aubrey), daughter of the great house where he finds work. But if it is to happen, there are plenty of obstacles to be removed first, not the least of which is that the pair come from different social worlds. Meanwhile there is the enigma of Sarah's younger sister Millie (a promising performance by a television debutante, Justine Waddell) who is given to wandering about in her nightdress under the full moon. Melodrama is never far from the surface but the director, Roy Battersby, manages to keep it in check.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6789026)
9.25 Chain Letters (4617378)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5409465)
10.00 The Time, the Place (91194)
10.30 This Morning (T) (61096754)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7471262)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6884945)
12.55 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (6796736) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47621552) **1.50** Shortland Street (8410281) **2.50** High Road (T) (5142484)
3.20 News (T) (3309151)
3.25 Regional News (T) (4759692)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (2569741) **3.40** Slim Pig (9845194) **3.50** Cartoon Time (9841378) **4.00** Zzzap! (2657823) **4.15** Jumanji (T) (1376823) **4.40** Gladiators: Train 2 Win (T) (4392858)
5.10 A Country Practice (5566939)
5.40 News (T) and weather (937858)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (609755)
6.25 HTV Weather (584736)
6.30 HTV News (T) (755)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune (T) (8303)
7.30 Coronation Street Sean, Des and Sam are put through their paces in preparation for the parachute jump (T) (939)
8.00 The Bill Tosh Lines comes under fire from his CID colleagues (T) (1823)



Nick Hancock and friends (8.30pm)

8.30 Holding the Baby In the last of the series Gordon's mother-in-law comes to stay and needless to say Gordon takes advantage of the situation by behaving badly (T) (3858)
9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Moth (2/3) Robert tries to comfort Julia after finding her distraught by the roadside (T) (9552)
10.00 News (T) and weather (64465)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (327552)
10.40 She Woke Up (1992) starring Lindsay Wagner, David Dukes and Frances Sternhagen. Made-for-TV thriller about an heiress trying to discover the identity of a masked intruder who put her in a coma for over a year before he strikes again. Directed by Waris Hussein (18170668)
12.30am Racing Stewart (r) (68953)
1.30 F1: Australian Grand Prix Jim Rosenthal begins the channel's coverage of the new Formula One season with live coverage of the qualifying round from Melbourne as Damon Hill starts the defence of his title. With commentary from Murray Walker and Martin Brundle. Plus news, features and gossip from the pits and paddock with James Allen and Louise Goodman (472458)
3.10 Club Nation (2677205) **4.05** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r) (41043798) **4.30** ITV Sport Classics (44798) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (88840) **5.30** News (73137)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6796736)
1.50 Savannah (8509129)
2.45 World of Wonder (9264571)
2.50-3.20 Our House (5142484)
3.50-4.00 Bugs Bunny (9841378)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5566939)
6.25-7.00 Central News (168129)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (3139533)
12.10am Hunter (8692243)
1.05 Weekly World News (4737296)
3.15 Cyber Cafe (38794392)
3.40 Dating the Enemy (8917427)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (2404886)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk (7471262)
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6796736)
1.50 High Road (8410281)
2.50-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (5142484)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5566939)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (69787)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (18154620)
12.35am Racing Stewart (5129137)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6796736)
1.55 Savannah (8428200)
2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5142484)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5566939)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (69787)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (18154620)
12.35am Racing Stewart (5129137)
3.15 Club Nation (215525)
4.15 Filler (87661069)
4.20 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (41024683)
4.45 Sound Bites (57836243)
5.00 Freescreen (88840)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6796736)
1.55 Savannah (8428200)
2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (5142484)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5566939)
6.23 Anglia Weather (585465)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (168129)
10.40 Conspiracy of Silence (18154620)
12.35am Racing Stewart (5129137)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (30668) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (35026) **9.00 Bewitched** (74842) **9.30 Ysgollon** (367842) **12.00 Collectors' Lot** (61378) **12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier** (81620) **1.00 Slot Melthrin** (38113) **1.30 Film: Northwest Passage** (87884303) **3.50 Fresh Pop** (9832620) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (668) **4.30 Shop Till You Drop** (552) **5.00 5 Pump** (3281) **5.30 Countdown** (804) **6.00 Newyddion** (222484) **6.05 Heno** (686533) **6.35 Jacpot** (591026) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (796804) **7.25 Y Sioe Gelf** (732668) **8.00 Penciacwydd: Gorffennaf — Awst** (9465) **8.30 Newyddion** (1200) **9.00 Turning World** (7194) **10.00 Brookside** (62007) **10.30 Here's Johnny** (215113) **11.05 The Girlie Show** (781736) **11.35 TFI Friday** (551397) **12.40am Robin** (9985408) **12.45 Flava** (76866) **1.15 Film: Women's Prison** (2323576) **2.35 Film: The Strange One** (842972) **4.25 Film: The Dark Past** (1409601)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (30668) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (35026) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (74842)
9.30 Schools (367842)
12.00 Bloom The mint family (r) (T) (61378) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (81620) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (94087295) **1.25** Pas a Deux. Animation (81745378)
1.35 Kiss Them for Me (1957) with Cary Grant and Suzy Parker. A comedy about three Second World War US Navy pilots on shore leave in San Francisco. Directed by Stanley Donen (T) (19424823)
3.30 Travelling Light Tim Grundy and Peter Hamilton travel along the length of Hadrian's Wall (T) (533)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (668) **4.30** Countdown (T) (552) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (3281) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (804)
6.00 TFI Friday The guests include the Arsenal and England footballer Paul Merson. Music is provided by Aerosmith, INXS and Fun Loving Criminals (69769)
7.00 Channel 4 News (486842)
7.55 The Slot (403842)
8.00 Bloom The poppy family (6/6) (T) (9465)
8.30 Brookside Jackie has a big secret and Danny has some awkward questions for Bel (T) (1200)
9.00 Caroline in the City Annie reintroduces Caroline to the wonderful world of dating (T) (8692)



Woody Harrelson guest-stars (9.30)

9.30 Spin City Michael learns how to get in touch with the common man when Tommy Dugan is made mayor for the day. With Michael J. Fox and Woody Harrelson (T) (19264)
10.00 Roseanne Roseanne becomes action woman when her family are threatened by terrorists. Includes cameo appearances by Mike Tyson and Don King (T) (62007)
10.30 Here's Johnny Comedy with Johnny Vaughan and guests, who include the group Boyzone (4/7) (215113)
11.05 The Girlie Show (9/12) (781736)
11.35 TFI Friday (r) (551397)
12.40am Robin (9985408)
12.45 Flava (4/8) (76866)
1.15 Women's Prison (1955, b/w) with Ida Lupino and Howard Duff. A drama opening a crime-and-punishment triple bill. The inmates of a women's prison suffer at the hands of a socially frustrated warden. Lewis Seiler directs (2323576)
2.35 The Strange One (1957, b/w) with Ben Gazzara and George Peppard. Cadets at an American military college stand up to a fellow cadet with sadistic tendencies. Directed by Jack Garfein (842972)
4.25 The Dark Past (1948) with William Holden and Lee J. Cobb. An escaped criminal takes a psychiatrist hostage in a remote holiday cabin. Directed by Rudolf Maté (32017040). Ends **5.40**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (757736) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (80129) **10.00** Another World (76397) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (56539) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (22991) **1.00pm** Geraldo (48839) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (45399) **3.00** Jenny Jones (43465) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (50200) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (4552) **6.00** Real TV (85262) **6.30** Married ... with Children (1194) **7.00** The Simpsons (5281) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7378) **8.00** JAG (70552) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (63216) **10.00** High Incident (66303) **11.00** Selina Scott (31129) **11.30** Star Trek: Next Generation (58736) **12.30am** LAPD (81475) **1.00** Hit Mix (1060717)

SKY 2

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (6092649) **8.00** Melrose Place (6001397) **9.00** Pacific Drive (60815533) **10.00** Tales from the Crypt (7607568) **10.30** Tales from the Crypt (7789216) **11.00** Late Show (5815823) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9588662)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.05am Return to Peyton Place (1961) (72607823) **8.05** Stagecoach (1966) (30341945) **10.00** Little Buddha (1993) (19986755) **12.15pm** The Letter (1981) (3587755) **2.00 Abandoned and Deceived** (1995) (84755) **4.00 Beat Shot** (1986) (9484) **6.00 Season of Change** (1994) (64891) **8.00 Highlander II: The Sorcerer** (1994) (76736) **10.00 Suspicious Agenda** (1994) (169026) **11.40 Reality Bites** (1994) (530910) **1.15am Bright Lights, Big City** (1988) (714779) **3.00 Cabin Boy** (1994) (1949972) **4.30 The Letter** (1981)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.20am The Gallant Hours (1960) (82253921) **8.15 Behind the Waterfall** (1995) (17252026) **10.00 Woman of Straw** (1964) (45842) **12.00 The Other Woman** (1995) (40484) **2.00pm The Sky's No Limit** (1994) (82397) **4.00 Behind the Waterfall** (1995) (7026) **6.00 Because Mommy Works** (1995) (85620) **7.30 UK Top 10** (8216) **8.00 Legends of the Fall** (1995) (91218755) **10.15 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein** (1994) (93052910) **12.20am The Companion** (1994) (995021) **1.55 Severed Ties** (1992) (130953) **3.30 Cold Dog Soup** (1990) (32972) **5.00 The Other Woman** (1995) (76427)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Heiress (1949) (3887485) **8.00 Overboard** (1987) (3882910) **10.00 Top Gun** (1986) (1627154) **11.55 Body Double** (1984) (1141465) **1.50am The Pick-Up Artist** (1987) (63009840) **3.15-5.40 Merlyn: The Untold Story** (1980)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from **9am to 9pm**, then TNT films as follows: **8.00pm WCW Nitro** (82180262) **9.00 Marlowe** (1969) (92190649) **11.00 Dark of the Sun** (1968) (92153978) **12.45am The Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins** (1971) (10320972) **2.45-5.00 Marlowe** (1969) (43481585)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (5123197) **6.25** Quack Attack (6676282) **6.50** Bonkers (3697026) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1901113) **7.40** Aladdin (2267823) **8.05** Quack Pack (3307939) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (4191295) **8.40** Care Bears (1771571) **9.10** Groundhog Marsh (2270858) **9.40** Big Garage (8373939) **9.55** Lamb Chop (9195007) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5256007) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1180194) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4734649) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1215484) **12.20** Timon and Pumbaa (8290945) **12.35pm** Little Mermaid (6799026) **1.00** Best of Disney (1878200) **1.50** Aladdin (62909649) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (53240755) **2.35** Bonkers (5079991) **3.00** Quack Attack (9582151) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4022552) **3.35** Goof Troop (5012755) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4133007) **4.10** Goof Troop (9452910) **4.35** Bonkers (5066281) **5.00** Aladdin (8141213) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8570378) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (582842) **6.00** Sky Trackers (8668) **6.30** Timon and Pumbaa (9436556) **6.40 FILM: Max Is Missing** (7840649) **8.10** Bonkers (2776649) **8.15-10.00 FILM: Adventures of Huck Finn** (83148656)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5460939) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7734587) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6702303) **7.30** Power Rangers (6618910) **8.00** Masked Rider (7696552) **8.30** Crocadoo (7695823) **9.00** Rimba's Island (8950874) **9.25** Why Why Family (2458874) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3053260) **9.55** Why Why Family (7031692) **10.00** Rimba's Island (1837259) **10.25** Why Why Family (5202281) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93836262) **10.55** Why Why Family (92085026) **11.00** Princess Sheta (21543781) **11.30** Pinocchio (2155007) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7606939) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29159113) **12.50** Power Rangers (29105021) **1.10** Masked Rider (25815129) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6498668) **2.00** Casper (4741281) **2.30** Life with Louie (6352692) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4833216) **3.30** Ace Ventura (7807787) **4.00** Casper (3657084) **4.30** Power Rangers (7908736) **5.00** Masked Rider (4732533) **5.30** Spiderman (8257228) **6.00** Goosebumps (5902151) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (1207543)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (99362) **7.30** Wrestling (41281) **8.30** Racing News (18552) **9.00** Sports Centre (42084) **9.30** Aerobics (46194) **10.00** Netbusters (82484) **10.30** Live Golf: Moroccan Open (85295) **12.30pm** Golf: Doral Ryder Open (22668) **2.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour (2858) **3.00** Live Golf: Moroccan Open (85858) **4.59** Sports Centre (6163804) **5.00** World Sport Special (6129) **5.30** Netbusters (6674) **6.00** Sports Centre (38129) **7.00** Live Cricket (595823) **10.00** Sports Centre (56277) **11.00** Hold the Back Page (24810) **12.00** Wrestling (88682) **1.00am** Rugby Club (25243) **2.00-3.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Rugby Club (4771281) **9.00** Live Golf: Doral Ryder Open (4781668) **11.00-1.00am** Golf: Moroccan Open (3447303)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Football League Review (56705124) **1.00pm** Scottish Cup Fifth Round: Celtic v Rangers (30090454) **3.00** Live Cricket (54501282) **7.00** Live Football (82504281) **10.00** Wrestling (92105571) **11.00-12.00** NHL Power Week (40401668)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Skiing (43849) **8.30** Athletics. World Indoor Championships — Live (2618649) **12.00** Olympic Games (15736) **12.30pm** Alpine Skiing (42378) **1.00** Freestyle Skiing. World Cup Moguls — Live (30539) **2.00** Beach Soccer (78281) **3.00** Athletics. World Indoor Championships — Live (4137361) **5.30** Skiing. Women's World Cup Slalom — Live (90397) **6.30** Athletics — Live (99303) **8.00** Skiing. Women's World Cup — Live (73811) **8.30** Tennis. Rotterdam ATP (79045) **10.00** Snooker. European Open (24987) **11.30** Funsports (73736) **12.00-12.30am** Inline Skating (58866)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2007409) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (2077409) **6.45** Magic Ball (15093209) **7.00** Allsorts (45845329) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (5017397) **7.30** Catweazle (69440261) **8.00** Classic Coronation St (41591113) **8.30** Fairylite (41584845) **9.00** The Professionals (61886741) **10.00** Grumbleweeds (72548221) **10.30** Cartoon Waltz (41386201) **11.00** Within These Walls (60416741) **12.00** Classic Coronation St (41522001) **12.30pm** Families (70246201) **1.00** Albion Market (69493621) **1.30** Kryptonite Factor (70236941) **2.00** Piece of Cake (72555552) **3.00** Upstairs Downstairs (10570261) **4.00** Doctor Who: In the House (62978484) **4.30** Grumbleweeds (62936681) **5.00** The Professionals (63679101) **6.00** Families (62745331) **6.30** Classic Coronation Street (62981114) **7.00** Doctor Who: In the House (62979397) **8.00** Upstairs Downstairs (71273391) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (21877441) **9.35** Good Life Guide (72956484) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (79685871) **From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High Street. From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine. From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty. From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Geography of a Walk. Time Travellers (5484674) **5.00** History Alive (3047397) **6.00** Lost Century (6579847) **7.00-8.00** Megacities. Marco Polo (4765533)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Twilight Zone (1396610) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3401311) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (1542930) **2.30** Night Gallery (4712232) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2413674) **9.30** Gardening Naturally (7625891) **10.00** Two Guys, a Garage and a Idea (1044) **10.30** Our House (2795681) **11.00** Fix It and Forget It (9579) **11.30** This Old House (5770200) **12.00** Versatile Vegetables (2220910) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (3064397) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (89492161) **1.30** Home Again (20636668) **2.00** Hometime (4513649) **2.30** Furniture to Go (87182161) **3.00** Two's Country (4525484) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (8617533)
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (86366668) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (8625552) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (46001291) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (86168404) **6.00** Wild Things (21452161) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (45174851) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (86262281) **8.00** Jurassica II (3805378) **9.00** Medical Detectives (57660007) **9.30** Science Detectives (20445331) **10.00** Justice Files (38911291) **11.00** Classic Wheels (85534651) **12.00** Victory in Europe (29652241) **1.00am** Roadshow (46359721) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (62736821)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (69784651) **7.35** Neighbours (98043451) **8.00** Crossroads (14966201) **8.25** EastEnders (87675521) **9.00** The Bill (22198041) **9.30** Bread (20629391) **10.00** Never the Twain (46122001) **10.30** The Sullivans (23112161) **11.00** The Rockford Files (86478581) **12.00** Crossroads (22396681) **12.30pm** Neighbours (20667551) **1.00** EastEnders (26261511) **1.35** The Two Ronnies (38341291) **2.30** For the Love of Ada (87106741) **3.00** Goldmaster (45278421) **3.30** The Bill (86199911) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (57622811) **5.00** Bob's Full House (30617231) **5.40** Crossroads (67766491) **6.05** EastEnders (14806741) **6.40** Ever Decreasing Circles (38518421) **7.20** Man About the House (77423001) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (17683781) **8.30** Russ Abbot (45143781) **9.00** The Bill (57684651) **9.30** The Chief (10850113) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (31222811) **11.20 FILM: The Fog** (76660261) **12.55am FILM: Blood of Dracula** (50063296) **2.10** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (36804) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (80718) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (13465) **8.00** Batman (58007) **8.30** Art Attack (55378) **9.00** Flesh Gordon (42956) **9.30** Bobby's World (75820) **10.00** Romulaud the Reindeer (87552) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (68842) **11.00** Danger Mouse (10620) **11.30** Gravedale High (28649) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (59194) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy (86736) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (30259) **1.30** Black Beauty (85007) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (4303) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (3113) **3.00** Art Attack (6610) **3.30** Flash Gordon (8858) **4.00** Batman (4465) **4.30-5.00** Big Dish (5178)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (44397) **6.30** Count Duckula (62674) **7.00** Rocko (99212216) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (85639889) **7.30** Rugrats (16839) **8.00** Doug (18823) **8.30** Arthur (17194) **9.00** Children's BBC (93754) **9.30** Children's BBC (44736) **10.00** Wimzie's House (80026) **10.30** Bebe (93718) **11.00** Magic School Bus (89736) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Will Cuss Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (80485) **12.00** Bananas In Pyjamas (11910) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (48552) **1.00** Children's BBC (47823) **2.00** Dr Seuss (9581) **2.30** Kissyfur (4200) **3.00** Wishbone (9026) **3.30** Stickin' Around (5945) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (1552) **4.30** Rugrats (7736) **5.00** Sister Sister (4571) **5.30** Moesha (4216) **6.00** Press Gang (1128) **6.30-7.00** Doug (2281)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (1007) **7.30** Roseanne (8465) **8.00** Roseanne (9705) **8.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (9262) **9.00** Cheers (92200) **9.30** Taxi (31216) **10.00** Garry Shandling's Show (29939) **10.30** Frasier (43277) **11.00** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (77945) **11.30** Monty Python's Flying Circus (79910) **12.00** Nurses (54040) **12.30am** Soap (16663) **1.00** Cheers (89507) **1.30** Taxi (10866) **2.00** Entertainment UK (58069) **2.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (37576) **3.00** Frasier (84853) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling's Show

BRAVO

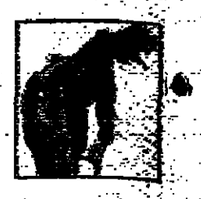
8.00pm Robocop (3892804) **9.00** The Burning Zone (3812668) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3815755) **11.00 FILM: Stagefright** (6213200) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (2787232) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9947601) **3.



CRICKET 41
Rebels committed to revive Sussex after flood of departures

SPORT

ATHLETICS 45
Australia's girl from flying circus takes act on world stage



FRIDAY MARCH 7 1997

Novices of the autumn spring into action with exhilarating demolition of Porto

United confound Euro-sceptics

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

UNLESS your name is Hilario, and you were deluged by goals on Wednesday, or unless you were one of 3,000 FC Porto fans soaked morning, noon and night by rainfall, then you had to draw pleasure from the command performance laid on by Manchester United in beating their Portuguese opponents 4-0 in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-finals.

United is already a brand name on every continent, and the vivacity, the confidence, the style with which the victory was completed would be bound to increase the respect, and therefore the value, of Manchester United wherever football is the *lingua franca*.

One simple litmus test: on the London Stock Exchange United's share value rose yesterday by £10 million, to more than £430 million. But why sully art with money? The adrenalin of the match *carried all who saw it as if on* some runaway stallion.

Seeing Ryan Giggs reproduce his thoroughbred skills, his outrageous speed of control, reminded us that he was raised with genuine world-class talent. Seeing Eric Cantona, imperious once more, using the field for his imaginative brush strokes, simply demanded applause.

And what of David May? One month after a hernia operation, he seemed to become Steve Bruce; hitherto a pretender but now competing for every ball, appearing composed under pressure, reading the game, and even advancing *to start the scoring rolling*.

"When you manage this club, there are experiences that can take your breath away," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had said in October. Between then and now his team had surrendered five and six goals to Newcastle United and Southampton respectively, had looked like novices in Europe, and yet had matured into the prospective champions of the continent.

Complacency, of course, would burst the bubble. Even if United finish off Porto in the away leg, they would be unlikely to meet a goalkeeper so fallible as young Hilario. Rather, they could expect a *tumultuous challenge in the* semi-final from Borussia Dortmund, first-leg conquerers of Auxerre on Wednesday, and then, perhaps, a final in Munich in May against Juventus, undoubtedly the most impressive club side in the world.

The statistics do not compare with the sensation of the performance, nor the completeness of United's concentration and teamwork. However, it is instructive to note that, on Wednesday, Manchester United had nine of their 13 shots on goal on target. This ratio is the complete opposite to last October, when United failed to score *against Juventus; failed to test* the goalkeeper with ten of their 14 attempts.

The differences are obvious. Juventus are a more gifted team by far than Porto. Juventus pressurise opponents, and Manchester United, forever chasing the game, forced to compete at a pace beyond them, snatched at opportunities, whereas on Wednesday, in a more composed state, they could strike home their chances.

"We've shown the rest of Europe we are not pushovers any more." May said amid the intoxication of the post-match euphoria. He should be directed towards the history of *United's past against Portuguese clubs.*

In 1964, United had beaten Sporting Lisbon 4-1 at home in the Cup Winners' Cup, and went out 5-0 in the return leg. In 1978, against Porto, a 5-2 United victory at Old Trafford meant nothing because they had already succumbed 4-0 in the northern Portuguese city.

So, Ferguson's cautionary work is done for him. On Wednesday, allowing the performance to speak volumes, the manager nevertheless, characteristically warned "I will take nothing for granted ... though that was a hell of a performance."

Ferguson's *own work this* season has also been extraordinary. After the dark month of November, when it really did seem that his team was exposed, he spoke again and again of "the good ability, good temperament, good athleticism" in his team.

To restore belief in each of his players, who at times had seemed bewildered and lost, must have taken psychological management bordering on brainwashing. For that alone, Ferguson may earn the title manager of the season.

He keeps on doing it, keeps on breathing into his football teams an edge that has an element of arrogance. But *when* athletes reach the heights of Wednesday, that sheer effrontery, allied to the work ethic, is surely acceptable.

There were other, cold statistics from the bold victory on Wednesday. Manchester United had *less* of the ball over 90 minutes. They never once ran offside, and Porto, who came to the match unbeaten after six outings in the Champions' League, could not fashion a solitary shot on Peter Schmeichel's goal.

Nothing else in Europe was so sweeping or so one-sided. Dortmund beat Auxerre 3-1, though the French were unlucky to have a goal disallowed. Ajax, thanks to Patrick Kluivert, drew at home to Atlético Madrid, but Kluivert is out of the second leg, having accured two yellow cards. Juventus, doing just enough, in the Italian manner, allowed Rosenborg to score first in Norway, and, two minutes later, equalised through Christian Vieri.

The competition is taking shape: Juventus remain the champions to beat, but suddenly the name of Manchester United draws extra respect, and — in this era — extra income to perpetuate their business.

O'Neill faces FA rap 44
Copybook Carbone 44
Lynne Truss 46



Lighting up Europe: Manchester United supporters revel in the aura of supremacy that enabled Old Trafford to fulfil its "Theatre of Dreams" tag on Wednesday night

Chelsea call on Parker to act as cover

By Our Sports Staff

CHELSEA have signed Paul Parker, the former Manchester United and England full back, until the end of the season as defensive cover. Parker, 32, was a free agent, having arrived in Britain this week from Hong Kong. He has also played for Derby County this season.

Chelsea complete a hat-trick of West London clubs for the experienced defender, who started his career with Fulham and then moved to Queens Park Rangers.

As Ruud Gullit, the player-manager, Michael Duberry and Erland Johnsen are all injured, Chelsea were keen to strengthen their squad before the transfer deadline later this month.

Newcastle United, who have operated without a reserve side this season, will have four teams representing them next season. Kevin Keegan, the former manager, controversially pulled Newcastle out of the Pontins Central League at the start of the season, leaving United without any competitive football for players not on first-team duty.

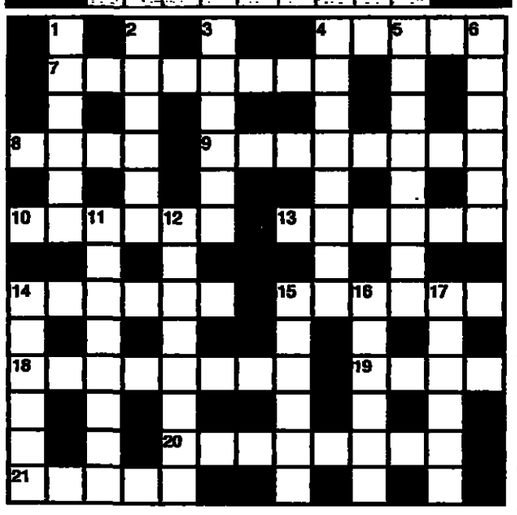
Kenny Dalglish, the manager, who has appointed Alan Irvine, the former Blackburn Rovers coach, to his coaching staff, has now indicated he intends to have a reserve side next season, plus a team in the Northern Alliance and a junior XI.

"I want to put us on a firm footing, which means playing at all levels to make certain the best young players come here and stay here," he said. "We will establish a reserve side next season and have also applied for membership of the Northern Alliance to help the juniors step up."

Reading have parted company with Bobby Mihaylov, the Bulgaria goalkeeper, six months before his contract was due to end. The 34-year-old, who would have been eligible for a free transfer in the summer, has been troubled by injuries throughout his 18 months at Elm Park and restricted to only 28 appearances.

Steve Gritt, the manager of Brighton and Hove Albion, the bottom club in the Nationwide League, has won the February third division manager-of-the-month award.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1035

ACROSS
4 Monastic head (5)
7 What those in trouble get into (3,5)
8 Cut into cubes (4)
9 Dismiss as unimportant (5,3)
10 Disrupt (speaker) (6)
13 Container for boiling (6)
14 Importance; brief time (6)
15 Recording-room (6)
18 Give confidence; confirm (8)
19 Fizzy water (4)
20 Anglican afternoon service (8)
21 Passenger ship (5)

DOWN
1 Prosper (6)
2 Thin irregular line; run fast (6)
3 Prolonged trouble *(slang)* (6)
4 Reasoned / heated debate (8)
5 Obsessed (8)
6 A sweet; a nothing (6)
11 Coordinated course of action (8)
12 Sir Edwin —, animal painter (8)
14 Tidbit (6)
15 Laurence —, *Shandy* author (6)
16 Outcome (6)
17 Deep blue colour, dye (6)

The solution to 1034 will be published Wednesday, March 12

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Ashes optimism from England

By Simon Wilde

ENGLAND'S cricketers finally reached home yesterday at the end of their 14-week tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand. They arrived at Heathrow after a gruelling 28-hour flight from Wellington, which involved three changes of plane as they travelled via Auckland and Los Angeles, but were in good spirits after their Test wins in New Zealand and were looking forward to the challenge of meeting Australia *this summer.*

"Australia are the best team in the world and we shall have to be at our maximum when we play them, but we shall prepare well and are looking forward to it," David Lloyd, the coach, said. "As for this tour, it has been terrific and we thoroughly enjoyed it. It's good to be home and preparations for the Aussies start now." The first Texaco Trophy match is on May 22.

Michael Atherton, who is certain to be retained as captain, was equally upbeat. "We've got a good set of players," he said. "There were very few problem areas on this tour and I felt that a lot of the players enhanced their careers. We should start the *summer with players who* have been in back-to-back Test-match wins.

"In the Test matches this winter I felt we played pretty consistently. We won two out of five and lost none. Our one-day form was poorer than that but the main emphasis of the cricket was Test matches with the squad that we took away."

He had no regrets about the length of the tour. "Three and a half months is a long time to be away. But that is the nature of tour itineraries these days."

Mike Brearley, England's most successful Test captain against Australia, will again be available to the national team in a consultative capacity this summer, helping players with problems that they may *feel unable to discuss with the team management.*

Brearley led England to three series wins over Australia between 1977 and 1981, and after he stopped playing in 1983 became a psychoanalyst.

Brearley's success as a captain was based on a phenomenal memory for the strengths and weaknesses of players and he was famously described by one opponent, Rodney Hogg, as having "a degree in people". He has never been available to England in a full-time advisory role but has assisted players on a casual basis.

☐ West Indies were 69 for one at lunch against India on the opening day of the first Test at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica. Sherwin Campbell was unbeaten on 33 while Shivnarine Chanderpaul was three not out. Stuart Williams fell for 23, bowled by Abey Kuruvilla, who was making his Test debut.

Car trouble forces Hill to take a back seat

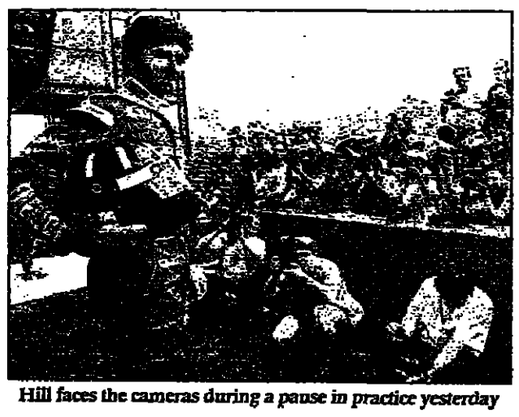
From Oliver Holt
in Melbourne

THE troubles surrounding Damon Hill's move to TWR Arrows look like continuing right up to the eve of the opening grand prix race of the Formula One season here on Sunday. The seat of his new car went missing yesterday.

Members of the team worked late into the night to try to make a new seat for the world champion in case the original fitting did not arrive on the final shipment of freight before today's opening practice sessions for the Australian Grand Prix.

The problems he has faced come in stark contrast to the efficiency he grew used to at Williams, and the latest glitch came in the wake of a series of teething troubles that began in January when Hill's first outing in the Arrows-Yamaha was delayed so long on the appointed day that Hill had to take to the track at Silverstone in the dark.

This testing programme was severely disrupted by a series of mechanical problems and last week, at the final test before he flew here, the front wing fell off his car as he ended his first lap at Silverstone. That mishap apparently prompted Hill to relay his dismay to the team owner, Tom Walkinshaw.



Hill faces the cameras during a pause in practice yesterday

Last night Hill's manager, Michael Breen, said the team was optimistic the seat would arrive before this morning's first practice session began at 11am. It is thought to be among a shipment organised by the Formula One Constructors Association and out of the control of Arrows. If the seat does not turn up, Hill will practise in a temporary mould before the correct seat is fitted for the qualifying session tomorrow.

Even if the seat problem is resolved, it is unlikely that the first race of the season will be a happy one for the Englishman. He is unlikely to qualify higher than tenth on the grid and if he is fortunate enough to finish the race, it is likely he will be a long, long way behind his former Williams team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, the favourite to win the world title this year.

Rivals at peace, page 43

